Beijing p/10

Canada sends 1st triathlon sextet



The world's largest global newspaper

metro

HALIFAX • WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 2008 metronews.ca

Success College
of Applied Arts and Technology
Established in 1893
Change the world one person at a time.
Call today for info on our Counselling Skills Program diploma!
Classes starting in September
Success College - Halifax
www.thinksuccess.ca
1-866-429-3497

Rick Howe to hit the waves at News 95.7

PAUL MCLEOD
paul.mcleod@metronews.ca

Rick Howe will ride again, but on a new frequency.

The popular former talk show host of AM920-CJCH will now be heading to News 95.7 to take over as an afternoon news anchor, editor and reporter.

"I'm anxious to get back to work. I love radio, I love being involved in the news. I'm getting antsy. It's been nice having the summer off so far but I'm getting antsy to get back," said Howe.

Though he was chiefly known as a talk show host, Howe is also used to the anchor/reporter role.

"It's what I did prior to the talk show, and even during the talk show I'd fill in on vacations and the summer months," said Howe.

Howe ran his daily call-in show, the Hotline, ran for 10 years on oldies station CJCH. But in late May it was cancelled when station owner CTV decided to switch to the FM dial and radically reprogram content for the new station.

Howe was also a columnist for the Daily News before it shut down in February.

"I hope one day I could do a talk show again," he said. "But, you know, we'll see."

Local page 5

Africville art exhibit opens

Entertainment page 15



Local director premieres film shot in Halifax

Celebrity Buzz page 18

Madge's health at risk: Reports

Cristobal **Pounding the pavement**



PAUL MCLEOD/METRO HALIFAX

Pedestrians slog through the rain yesterday on Spring Garden Road in Halifax. The tropical storm Cristobal dumped between 50 to 100 millimetres of rain on the province yesterday. Story, page 4.

High-tech handcuffs for high-risk prisoners

Province buys 200 to match leg shackles after multiple escapes

ROBYN YOUNG
robyn.young@metronews.ca

High-risk prisoners in Nova Scotia will soon be sporting shiny new handcuffs to go along with their escape-proof leg shackles.

The Justice Department posted a tender this week for 200 Model 710HS and Model 7030HS handcuffs which do not operate with a standard handcuff key, as well as 200 Peerless brand hinged handcuffs.

Carla Grant, spokeswoman with the Justice Department, said both brands offer higher security because they don't operate under a universal key.

"There'll be a common key but a key that will only be owned by sheriffs services. They will be far more difficult to break free from."
Spokesperson Carla Grant, Justice Department

"There'll be a common key but a key that will only be owned by sheriffs services," said Grant.

"They will be far more difficult to break free from."

Two weeks ago the department posted a tender for 200 high-tech leg shackles.

The requests for upgraded equipment follow several high-profile prisoner escapes in Nova Scotia over the past six months.

Most recently, Micheal Edward Slaunwhite, 38, and Vincent John Ryan Currie, 26, briefly escaped custody Jun. 26 while being transferred from the Burnside jail to Dartmouth provincial court.

The two men got out of their leg irons and ran from the transfer van but were apprehended moments later.

Jermaine Carvery, who escaped custody while on transfer April 3, also broke free of his standard-issue leg shackles and handcuffs.

He was caught in Ontario mid-June and is being processed through the Toronto court system for a masked robbery at a downtown boutique.



The Justice Department has put out a tender for 200 of these Peerless hinged handcuffs as well as 200 high security handcuffs designed for high-risk prisoner restraint and transport situations.

Atlantic Free Daily Newspapers Inc., operating as Metro Halifax 3260 Barrington Street, Suite 102, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3K 0B5. Publisher: Greg Lutes

Residents on E.I. jumps 4.8% in May
There were 27,070 Nova Scotians on Employment Insurance in May — up 4.8 per cent from the month before. Over the last year it's dropped by four per cent. METRO HALIFAX

Local



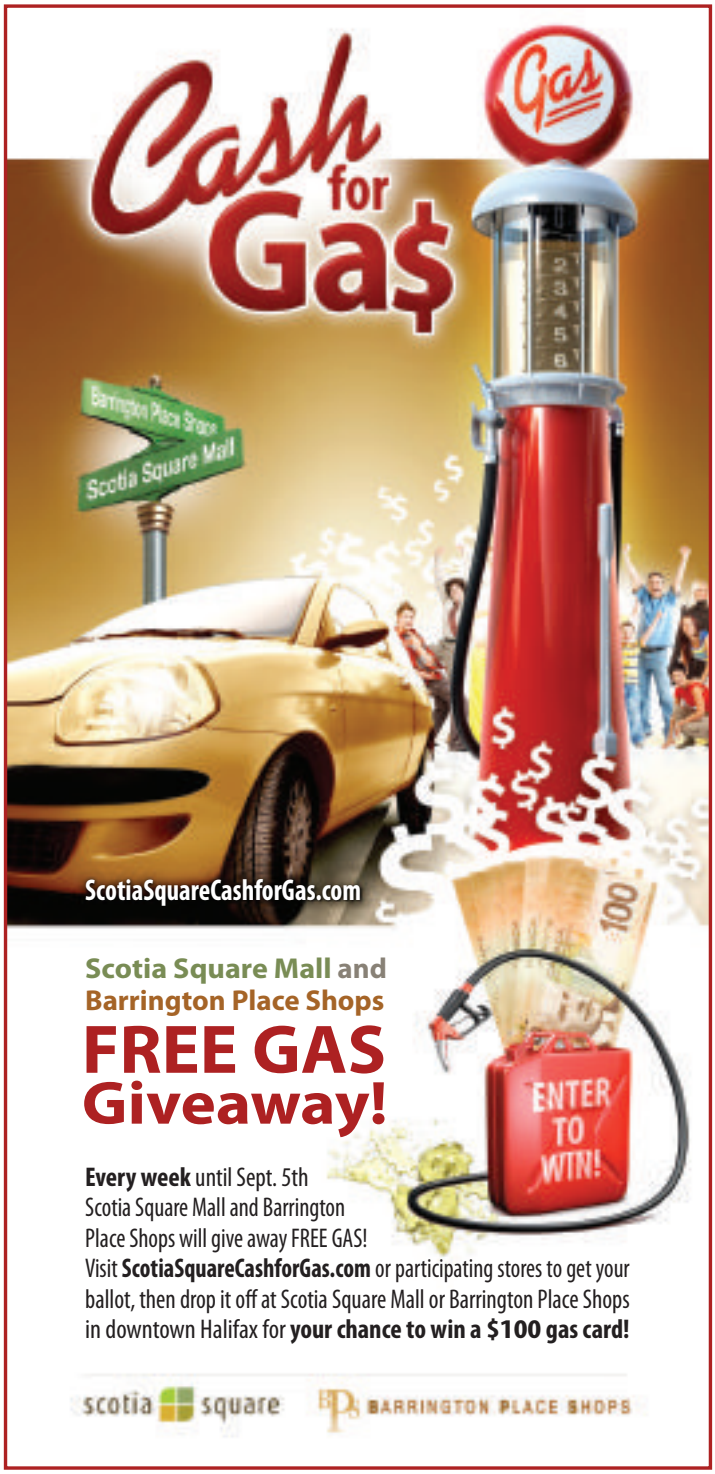
Retail sales ring in at $1 billion

Retail sales were up 4.1 per cent in Nova Scotia, from $972 million in May 2007 to just over $1 billion in May 2008. Saskatchewan posted the largest sales increase, up 13.7 per cent in a year, according to Statistics Canada.
METRO HALIFAX

News in brief

MUGGING A man was jumped while by Arthur Street in Dartmouth yesterday. Around 2 p.m., two men approached the victim from behind then punched and kicked. One suspect pulled out a gun and demanded money. After taking the cash, they fled on foot.

LABOUR The management at the Abercrombie Point mill says there is a window of opportunity to build a viable business in Pictou County, but labour costs are keeping the mill from remaining competitive. Keith Johnson, chief operating officer for the Northern Pulp mill, said the company would be offering early retirement packages to senior employees.
METRO HALIFAX



N.S. gets $10.2M for aboriginal services

Federal funds to go toward child welfare

PAUL MCLEOD
paul.mcleod@metronews.ca

Nova Scotia is getting $10.2 million over five years from the federal government to provide better community services to First Nations communities.

The hope is to solve domestic problems before they reach the point where children need to be removed from the family home.

"This funding will help to identify children at risk and provide support to their family before they reach a crisis," said South Shore MP Gerald Keddy.

The government hasn't set specific goals, but hopes the new funding will bring down the number of children removed from homes.

Child welfare on First Nations reserves is handled by First Nations Child and Family Services agencies, which are funded by the federal government.

Chief Lawrence Paul, president of the Mi'kmaw Family and Children's Services of Nova Scotia, said the funding will give them stability.

"It was kind of difficult to plan in the future when you have year-by-year funding," said Paul. "So I'm quite pleased we got a multi-year agreement and I'm quite pleased we have more money for the agency."

Paul said the Indian Brook First Nation would be building a new headquarters, as their old one had become rundown and decrepit.

He said employees of First Nations transitions houses, which had been paid less than similar jobs elsewhere in the province, will also be brought up to parity.


PAUL MCLEOD/METRO HALIFAX

Chief Lawrence Paul, president of the Mi'kmaw Family and Children's Services of Nova Scotia, at an announcement that will see $10.2 million put toward First Nations welfare services.

Prevention plan

- The prevention-centred plan is being billed as unique to Nova Scotia though it's based on a similar agreement made last year in Alberta.

Obesity camp targets weight-based illnesses

LINDSAY JONES
lindsay.jones@metronews.ca

Capital Health's new psychology-based boot camp is aimed at helping the numerous Nova Scotians facing obesity analyze their lifestyle, eating habits and behaviour.

The camp, which kicks off today for 100 hospital and Dalhousie University employees, is aimed at helping people to avoid and further manage weight complications like diabetes, high blood pressure and high cholesterol.

"A lot of people have challenges with falling into psychological traps around weight-loss," nurse practitioner Diana Lawlor said. "They often start off very well, but have challenges keeping on track and having long-term success." The program, which begins for the general public in September, is part of Capital Health's acute care portfolio, a three-pronged, multi-team approach to reducing the number of overweight people in Nova Scotia.

Consisting of four sessions per year, the camps are run by Lawlor, health psychologist Michael Vallis, endocrinologist Tom Ransom, surgeon Jim Ellsmere, and clinical dietician Janet Plowman.

"Participants will really be put in the drivers seat," Lawlor said. "We'll want them to take some personal responsibility and apply what they're learning."

Participants need to be obese to qualify. Obesity is defined as having a body mass index of 30 or more.

Lawlor says about 60 per cent of the population in Nova Scotia is overweight with a body mass index greater than 26.

Tomorrow's Metro

7 UP



CD reviews of new releases from Brendan Canning, The Black Kids, Dr. Dog, Miley Cyrus, The Midway State, Buddy Guy, and She & Him, featuring actress Zooey Deschanel (above).
Also: Canada's Olympic flagbearer will be announced today — find out who it is and why the pick was made.

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Read today's news highlights in Metro Snapshot
Watch MetroTube of the Day – video you need to see
Check movie showtimes, trailers and reviews at metronews.ca/movies
Search for jobs using Metro's Workopolis search
Play online Sudoku!

Time for the mother-in-law to visit?
Got friends from out of town? Destination Halifax is offering a week-long trip to — well, Halifax — during the Tall Ships festival in July 2009. Out-of-towners can enter at www.tallships.destinationhalifax.com. METRO HALIFAX

LINDSAY JONES/METRO HALIFAX



Sandbags are stacked around the Peninsula Place parking garage yesterday to keep out heavy rains of tropical storm Cristobal.

Data should help find flood cause: City

LINDSAY JONES
lindsay.jones@metronews.ca

The city hopes data from a monitoring device will reveal whether the Harbour Solutions pumping station is to blame for three floods in the Peninsula Place garage.

"That way, (engineers) can either eliminate the pumping station as the source of the problem or perhaps it is part of the problem," city spokesman James Campbell said. "It's good information to be able to start acquiring."

For the third time in six months, the south-end parking garage flooded Monday morning. The same thing happened in January and February, damaging more than 50 vehicles.

The cause hasn't been determined, but tenants point to the newly-constructed nearby Harbour Solutions pumping station.

"It could be a number of other factors, but the pumping station seems to be the most popular target," Campbell said. Other causes could be the nearby freshwater brook, tides and changing weather patterns, he added.

Pumping station

- Dexter Construction built the pumping station for the city and still owns the site, Campbell said.

He said he's unsure how long it will take to analyze the data from the monitoring device, but the goal is as soon as possible. It's been in place for two months, so this latest flood should provide information.

Meanwhile, he says Halifax Water and Dexter staff spent yesterday and last night surveying the sandbag-surrounded garage as heavy rain from tropical storm Cristobal pelted the city.

Prison has own record

ROBYN YOUNG
robyn.young@metronews.ca

Two Nova Scotia men, who escaped from a federal minimum-security prison in New Brunswick last weekend, were just the latest in a long list of escapees from the facility.

Inmates Ronald Mack Makokis, 20, and William Randall McAllister, 19, were the third and fourth prisoners to escape from Westmoreland Institution in the past two months.

They were the 16th and 17th to escape in the past three years.

All but one of those prisoners was caught, including Makokis and McAllister who were picked up by Amherst RCMP in Nova Scotia last Saturday.

Pipogoes Augustine, 30, who escaped Jul. 11, and was serving a two-year term for various theft charges, is still on the loose.

"They escaped by walking away," said Andre Veniot, a spokesman for Correctional Services Canada in the Atlantic Region, referring to the two most recent escapes.

Minimum security

- Veniot said it's not uncommon for prisoners to get out of minimum-security facilities.

There's no perimeter fencing at Westmoreland, similar to most minimum-security facilities in the country, he said, so inmates can easily walk off the property.

Makokis was serving a two and a half year sentence for various property and motor vehicle related offences, while McAllister was in for three years for a break and enter theft.

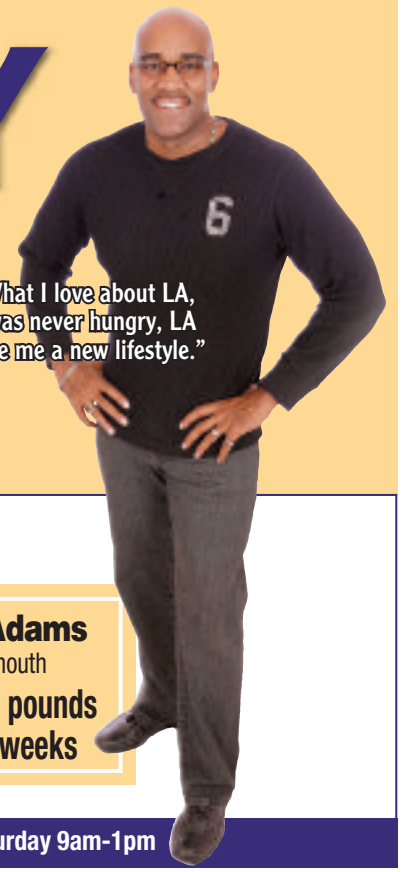
Veniot said the facility is for inmates who are deemed to be "low risk to public safety."

But at least two of the 17 prisoners who have escaped custody since January 2005, were serving sentences for murder.

He said Correctional Services Canada is always trying to improve security to ensure public safety, but would not get into details about what's being done to prevent escapes from the New Brunswick facility.

"We do not discuss operational matters," he said.

FAST & EASY WEIGHT LOSS



"What I love about LA, I was never hungry, LA gave me a new lifestyle."

• One-on-one counseling • Fast, safe and effective weight loss • Lose Up to 7 lbs. in 7 days*
• Eat your favourite foods and still lose weight • No injections, no gimmicks

LA WEIGHT LOSS CENTERS®

Call today for a FREE Consultation!
1-866-482-SLIM (7546)
Over 400 Centers in North America.
*"You may lose more or less than client shown".

Paul Adams
Dartmouth
Lost 31 pounds in 18 weeks

Locations: • Halifax • Dartmouth • Bedford • Sydney
The hours are Monday, Wednesday & Friday 7:30am to 7:00pm • Tuesday & Thursday 9am-6pm • Saturday 9am-1pm

Nova Scotia wants your ideas

The province wants public input on new regulations for operating boilers and pressure equipment which heats large buildings and operates cooling systems. Visit www.gov.ns.ca/lwd/publicsafety/boilerpressurevesselreview.asp. METRO HALIFAX

Breaking up the municipality

New group says HRM is 'unworkable'

JENNIFER TAPLIN
jennifer.taplin@metronews.ca

A new citizens' group that wants to reverse amalgamation held it's first annual meeting last night.

After about a year of planning, the Citizens for Halifax met at Saint Mary's University to go over their principles and elect board members.

"We see a promising future for our city, but it must be a city, not a municipality," said Don Mills, a founding member of the society.

Dividing the HRM in two was the first of seven position statements approved last night. Mills said the current city council structure is 'unworkable' and is too much for the geography and diversity of the area.

"We believe there's a structure problem and that's the root of many of the problems we have in this community."

Rather than 23 HRM councilors, Mills said he'd rather see a city council of 12 members and a Halifax County council of 11 members.

Some areas of the municipality are spending more in taxes then they're receiving in services, said Mills outlining his second point.

"We need to have a voice in the community that says we need to align taxes with the cost of service delivery," he said.

Patricia Busby explained the third point about the goal of making Halifax the most environmentally sustainable city in Canada by 2020.

"We believe a higher level of commitment to sustainability is needed by the city," she said.

Busby also argued for more money spent on arts and culture, and the creation of innovation awards.

Mills said Citizens for Halifax already has 500 paid members.

Plans outlined

- The group outlined their plans to create a transit authority and a more transparent and streamlined development process. They also discussed developing a strategy to attract and keep more immigrants in the city, and to better support community groups.



JENNIFER TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Don Mills, a founding member of Citizens for Halifax, speaks at their first annual meeting at Saint Mary's University last night.

Standoff ends when police fire tear gas

SYDNEY Cape Breton Regional Police used tear gas to extract a man who barricaded himself inside a home for over four hours yesterday morning.

Police responded to a noise complaint and domestic dispute at approximately 6:30 a.m. yesterday.

A 35-year-old man, who was involved in a dispute with a female, barricaded himself alone inside the single-dwelling home. He was hit with tear gas and placed in a police security van.

"The police were here and he didn't want to go."
Const. Gary Fraser

Police patrol units, two negotiators, an emergency response team, three K-9 units, a mobile command centre, and a domestic violence team were positioned at the scene. The crew also received a visit from regional police chief Dave Wilson.

"He was upset, notably upset, the police were here and he didn't want to go with police and that's why he was barricaded," said Const. Gary Fraser.

THE CAPE BRETON POST

Waste Management of Canada is the leading provider of comprehensive waste management services, offering advanced residential, commercial and industrial collection, recycling and disposal services throughout Canada. Due to our continued growth and expansion, we are looking to significantly increase our staff at our Halifax Site.

Drivers
Rear-Load and Recycling

Qualifications:
- Acceptable driver abstract
- Air brake endorsement
- Ability to pass a background check and medical exam
- Class 3 license for residential trucks and Class 5A for recycling trucks

Driver Helpers

Our driver helpers are responsible for assisting in the collection and hand loading of residential waste, as well as the transporting of this waste to a landfill site.

Hours of Work: Monday to Friday between 7 am to 6:30 am

At Waste Management, each eligible employee receives a competitive total compensation package, unbeatable health care benefits, life insurance, a stock purchase plan, paid vacation and more.

To apply, please call **1- 877-220-5627** and ask for job code **CRMLT** (helper positions) OR job code **CRMDT** (driver positions) or online at **www.wmcareers.com**

WM
WASTE MANAGEMENT

'Size and scope' of administering cancer drug is causing delays

JENNIFER TAPLIN
jennifer.taplin@metronews.ca



"What people are now asking themselves is how much longer is it going to take?"
NDP Leader Darrel Dexter

AVASTIN Cancer patients wanting to get Avastin free-of-charge don't have much longer to wait.

The province agreed to cover the life-extending drug when they unveiled the budget three months ago. Yesterday NDP and Opposition Leader Darrell Dexter said compassion demands the government move faster in delivering on their promise.

"What people are now asking themselves is how much longer is it going to take?" Dexter said.

"These are very stressful times for people who are suffering from cancer and who are also struggling for how they're going to pay for expensive medication."

About 100 Nova Scotians are waiting for Avastin.

Health Minister Chris d'Entremont said it's taking longer than expected, but they will start accepting patients in about two weeks.

"We're a month off, but I think with the world of politics and how government works, that's not too bad."

Hammering out the eligibility requirements as well as solving staff and space issues took some time.

"I think Mr. Dexter thinks it's just about the cost of the drugs, I don't think he understands the size and the scope of having to administer the drug," d'Entremont said.

"Because it's infused, it's administered by a hospital and we have to have the seats, nurses and technicians available. There are already people in line waiting to get other IV drugs and we're adding workload to those clinics. That's what's taking time."

The delay is painful for people who are shelling out about $3,000 a month for the drug, Dexter said.

"People are giving up other parts of their life, which they can't afford to budget for."

Patients who are paying for the drug will be reimbursed from April 1st, d'Entremont said.

It will be offered right across the province, and some districts will have to hire some staff to handle the workload.

Cristobal soaks some parts of province

STORM Cristobal hit Nova Scotia hard then moved out to sea yesterday.

"We did get 160 millimetres down in the southwestern part of Nova Scotia and they were right on the edge of a heavy band that went through (yesterday) morning," said Bob Robichaud, a meteorologist with Environment Canada.

But generally the province was soaked with between 50 to 100 millimetres of rain.

Washed out

- There was some flooding reported in Eastern Passage and Atlantic View Drive in Sambro Head was closed because the road washed out.

Because of water pooling on the highways, the RCMP warned drivers about hydroplaning yesterday.

"If the rain becomes too heavy and they have to pull off to the side of the road, to pull off as far as they can and make sure their fourway flashers are activated," said Cpl. Joe Taplin.

But two accidents related to hydroplaning were reported yesterday. Both were single-vehicle accidents and there were no injuries. One occurred on the Highway 118 extension and the other was on Beaverbank Road.

JENNIFER TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Chamber hosts mayoral debate
The Halifax Chamber of Commerce will host a debate between Mayor Peter Kelly and Coun. Sheila Fougere, Kelly's only declared opponent, on Sept. 25. Any new candidates for the mayoralty will also be invited. METRO HALIFAX

Remembering Africville

Art exhibition opens for 25th anniversary of community's relocation

ROBYN YOUNG
robyn.young@metronews.ca

To move forward from Africville, it's necessary to understand Africville.

The curator of Africville House, an exhibition of art inspired by the Africville experience, said yesterday at the opening of the exhibit, the memories can't be erased like the name and location of the community once were.

"Africville's name was deliberately erased from our records," David Woods told a small crowd gathered in a tent erected in Seaview Park for the 25th anniversary of the Africville community relocation.

Woods spent the last several weeks gathering photo to essays, paintings, books, music, films, carvings and quilted representations of the Africville experience for the exhibit organized by the Africentric Learning Institute of Nova Scotia and the Council on African Canadian Education.


ROBYN YOUNG/METRO HALIFAX

Artist Angel Gannon, left, and Beatrice Arsenault, chair person for the Africville 25th Reunion Festival Committee, discuss a painting of Africville before yesterday's opening of Africville House art exhibition.

Angel Gannon, a Nova Scotian artist who contributed her wood carving interpretation of the 10 commandments of Africville, said that for the 25th anniversary of the Africville reunion, organizers wanted something special.

"We wanted to elaborate on our expression of how we feel about Africville," she said.

Rather than just talking about the political issues surrounding the 1960s razing of the African Nova Scotian community, organizers wanted to express the emotions involved.

"We wanted to bring some life to it," Gannon said.

Her intricate carving includes images of music, a clothesline that represents family and community, church, which is at the core of the community and nature.

The opening reception for Africville House took place last night and a number of special events including readings and performances will take place throughout the day for the rest of the week.

On the web

- For schedules and descriptions, visit www.gov.ns.ca/ansa/AfricvilleHouse.htm.

More people visit despite price of gas

TOURISM Despite fears of high gas prices devastating the tourism industry, Nova Scotia has so far received one per cent more visitors than last year.

Between January and May of this year, 627,400 people came into the province, about 5,200 more than the same period last year, according to numbers released yesterday by the Department of Tourism.

The amount coming by road did dip slightly, but still made up the majority of visitors at 65 per cent. But that was more than made up for by a nine per cent increase in air travel.

The vast majority of visitors — nine of every 10 — came from other parts of Canada, in particular other Maritime provinces. Visitors from the United States and overseas only made up five per cent of visitors each.

Business at hotels, motels and inns were also up from the same period as last year by six per cent.

PAUL MCLEOD/METRO HALIFAX



UK looks to stop binge drinking

Britain's drinks industry may face tough new laws to deal with the country's binge-drinking culture, which costs the state health system an estimated 2.7 billion pounds each year, the government warned yesterday. REUTERS

Canada/World

Ex-fiancée backs terror suspect

The former fiancée of accused terrorist Momin Khawaja says he may have longed to fight in Afghanistan and that he praised the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attack on the U.S., but she never considered him an extremist or a terrorist.

"Just because he supports these things in theory is not actually proof of his involvement as such," Zeba Khan told Ontario Superior Court yesterday in a video link-up from Dubai.

Khan told RCMP investigators during a lengthy interview at the Canadian consulate in Dubai on Sept. 19, 2005, that her sister once described Khawaja as a "blowhard" who liked to hear "the sound of his own voice."

> **"I thought I would marry him and change him."**
> Zeba Khan

Khan told Khawaja's landmark terror trial she saw him as just another angry young Muslim man she hoped to change once they got married, a marriage that didn't happen because Khawaja decided he was a jihadist first and foremost.

"I thought I would marry him and change him," said Khan, 28.

Khan, who was wearing a pink hijab, said she hoped to channel Khawaja's energies away from obsessing about getting even with the West and into something positive, such as humanitarian work.

Khan told the court that Khawaja's behaviour "did not in any way line up to terrorist activity."

Khawaja, 29, born and raised in Orleans near Ottawa, faces seven terrorism charges, including funding a terrorist group and building an electronic device that the Crown alleges was to be used to detonate a 600-kilogram fertilizer bomb.

He was the first person charged in Canada under the Anti-Terrorism Act, passed by Parliament in response to the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks in the United States.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Karadzic's hidden life

Radovan Karadzic, one of the world's most wanted men, lived for years in a Belgrade suburb posing as a doctor of alternative medicine, hiding his famous face behind long hair, a bushy beard and thick glasses.



REUTERS/HANDOUT

A combination photo shows Bosnian Serb wartime leader and indicted war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic.

Pictures given to Reuters by people who knew him as his alter ego show his face, ruddy in his heyday as the leader of Bosnian Serb forces, now sunken and shallow. His eyes are dull behind old-fashioned, tinted frames.

The slightly curved nose is the only obvious similarity.

The trademark salt-and-pepper mane, perfectly coiffed throughout the 1992-95 war, had turned from sleek to frizzy. He wore it in a plaited topknot, pure white mixed with flashes of black.

Not like the robust politician charged with orchestrating the murder of 8,000 people in Srebrenica and being responsible for the death of 11,000 in the 43-month siege of Sarajevo.

Karadzic lived quietly in New Belgrade. Officials say he used the name Dr. Dragan David Dabic, and made a living as a practitioner of alternative medicine.

REUTERS

Calgary **Solar Challenge finishes up after 10 days**



ROBIN KUNSKI FOR METRO CALGARY

The University of Calgary's Schulich 1 crossed the finish line yesterday afternoon, completing the North American Solar Challenge — a 10-day, 3,862-kilometre trek from Dallas to Calgary. The team finished sixth out of 15 teams. For video of the event, go to www.metronews.ca.

Bulldozer attack injures 16 prior to Obama visit

VIOLENCE A Palestinian rammed a bulldozer into vehicles on a Jerusalem street yesterday before a visit by U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama, who condemned the attack and pledged to push for a peace deal.

The attacker wounded at least 16 people, one seriously, before being shot dead just down the road from the hotel where Obama is due to stay. It was the second such incident in Jewish west Jerusalem in three weeks.

"Today's bulldozer attack is a reminder of what Israelis have courageously lived with on a daily basis for far too long," Obama told a news conference in Amman.

"I strongly condemn this attack and will always support Israel in confronting terrorism and pursuing lasting peace and security."

Obama, who was to fly to Israel later in the day, pledged to start working for a breakthrough in Israeli-Palestinian peace talks from his first day in office, but said it was unrealistic to expect a U.S. president to "suddenly snap his fingers and bring about peace."

REUTERS

Obama committed to Iraq timetable

WITHDRAWAL U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama said yesterday he was committed to a 16-month timetable for a U.S. military withdrawal from Iraq, after a trip in which he met Iraqi leaders and U.S. officials.

Obama was speaking in the Jordanian capital as part of a tour of the region in which he has sought to shift the focus of U.S. military efforts from Iraq to Afghanistan, where al Qaeda and the Taliban are resurgent.

The question of when to withdraw some 147,000 U.S. troops in Iraq overshadowed the first term senator's trip.

REUTERS

News in brief

TASER A man is dead after being shot with a Taser stun gun by police in Winnipeg yesterday, CBC News Online is reporting. Police received a 911 call around 4 p.m. and when officers arrived at the location, there was some type of confrontation that resulted in one man being stunned with a Taser, police said.

COLLAPSE A crane toppled over a major highway in Surrey, B.C. yesterday, snarling traffic and flaring tempers just in time for rush hour. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ontario boosts diabetes funding by over $700 million

HEALTH Diabetes experts and advocates were "dancing for joy" yesterday after the announcement of a three-quarters of a billion dollar strategy they say will improve the lives of some 900,000 Ontarians living with the disease.

The four-year, $741 million plan will provide free insulin pumps for adults with type 1 diabetes, fund surgery for the morbidly obese and create an electronic diabetes registry to help patients manage their disease. It also includes education campaigns to prevent people from getting diabetes in the first place.

Experts say the three-pronged approach — encompassing prevention, management and treatment — will go a long way to curb the mounting epidemic sweeping the province.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

GUANTANAMO Osama bin Laden's driver knew the target of the fourth hijacked jetliner in the Sept. 11 attacks, a prosecutor said yesterday in an attempt to draw a link between Salim Hamdan and the al Qaeda leadership in the first Guantanamo war crimes trial.

AFGHANISTAN A senior Taliban commander in southern Afghanistan surrendered to Pakistani authorities and British forces killed another leader, dealing a "shattering blow" to the militant group's leadership, the British army said yesterday. REUTERS

METRO Halifax

3260 Barrington Street, Suite 102
Halifax, NS B3K 0B5
Tel: 902-444-4444
Fax: 902-422-5610
Advertising: 902-421-5824
adinfohalifax@metronews.ca
Comments: halifaxletters@metronews.ca
Editorial:
metrohalifaxinfo@metronews.ca
Distribution inquiries:
halifax_distribution@metronews.ca

metro_enquiries@metronews.ca

Local:
Publisher, Greg Lutes
Managing Editor, Rachel Boomer
rachel.boomer@metronews.ca
Marketing Manager, Christina Edwards
Sales Manager, Dianne Curran
Distribution Manager, Irma Moore
National:
Group Publisher, Bill McDonald
Editor-in-Chief, Dianne Rinehart
Art Director, Laila Hakim
National Sales Director, Susan Courtney
Interactive Director, Jodi Brown

Metro is the world's largest newspaper, with more than 20 million daily readers in 100 major cities in 21 countries. www.metronews.ca

Billionaire investor sees $300 oil unless U.S. cuts imports
Oil prices will hit $300 US a barrel in 10 years if the United States fails to reduce its dependence on foreign imports, billionaire oil investor T. Boone Pickens told U.S. lawmakers yesterday. The U.S. imports nearly 70 per cent of its oil. REUTERS

Business

DOLLAR			OIL	
0.69¢	C$	$99.17 US	$127.95 US	
	US$	$1.0084	$3.09	

THE DAILY BUSINESS BUZZ

Robbery at bank branch:
HRM Police were called to a robbery yesterday at the Royal Bank on 6390 Quinpool Rd. At about 9:50 a.m., a man entered the bank and handed the teller a note demanding money. He was given cash and fled. No weapon was seen. The suspect is described as a white male, about 40 years old and 5-foot-6 with a tanned complexion, a large nose, a few days worth of scruff on his face and a build on the heavy side. He was wearing a green ballcap and a green raincoat.

Play nice:
Your grade-school teacher was right: Not playing well with others can keep you from getting ahead, particularly at work. In a recent survey, almost half (45 per cent) of chief financial officers said interpersonal abilities are the most important communication skill for financial professionals.

Get the full stories delivered to your inbox every morning by signing up for the Daily Business Buzz www.nsbj.ca

Users drive new Xbox 360 games

CREATE Microsoft Corp. will turn to users of its Xbox 360 to create new video games and broaden the types of games available, taking a page out of the strategy books of Facebook and YouTube. It said yesterday it will start selling "user-generated" games later this year on its online Xbox Live service and share up to 70 per cent of revenue with the game developer. Microsoft began offering game production tools in 2006 to amateurs and hobbyists. REUTERS

In brief

PRICE TUMBLES Oil prices fell to a six-week low yesterday amid concerns over sliding U.S. energy demand and expectations that a hurricane pushing through the Gulf of Mexico would spare most offshore oil production.

PLUG-IN VEHICLES Ford Motor Co is at least five years away from manufacturing big numbers of plug-in electric vehicles for the mass market, Nancy Gioia, Ford's director of sustainable mobility technologies and hybrid vehicle programs, said yesterday. REUTERS

Ottawa eyes another auction

The federal government plans to sell off more wireless spectrum in the next year and a half, following a heated auction of airwaves that raised $4.25 billion and could reshape the mobile phone market.

"There is what I refer to as the 700-series bandwidth," Industry Minister Jim Prentice told reporters. "There is an auction of that which will happen at some point in the future ... it's about 18 months away."

700 megahertz bandwidth

The 700 megahertz airwaves are considered valuable because they can cover long distances and more easily penetrate obstacles such as thick walls and buildings.

Such an auction could further shake up Canada's wireless landscape by opening up more spectrum to firms other than BCE, Telus and Rogers Communications who currently rule the market.

The auction that ended Monday was a sale of spectrum in the 2 gigahertz range. REUTERS



DOWNEAST - ALIANT STORES

Amherst
· Amherst Mall
Antigonish
· Antigonish Mall
Bedford
· Bedford Place Mall
· Sunnyside Mall
Bridgewater
· Bridgewater Mall
Dartmouth
· Aliant Business Store 202 Brownlow Ave
· Mic Mac Mall
· Sobeys Panavista 612 Hwy #7
· Superstore Dartmouth 650 Portland St.
· Penhorn Mall
Elmsdale
· Elmsdale Plaza 269 Hwy #214
Fall River
· Fall River Plaza
Greenwood
· Greenwood Mall
Halifax
· Bayer's Lake 209 Chain Lake Dr.
· 741 Bedford Hwy
· Halifax Shopping Centre Aliant Store (upper level) Aliant Kiosk (lower level)
· Maritime Centre Mall
· Sobeys, Halifax Shopping Centre Annex
· Scotia Square
· 5475 Spring Garden Rd.
· West End Mall
New Glasgow
· Highland Square Mall
New Minas
· County Fair Mall
Porter's Lake
· 5228, Hwy #7 Porter's Lake Plaza
Sackville
· Sobeys, 752 Sackville Dr.
· Superstore, 745 Sackville Dr.
Tantallon
· Sobeys Tantallon
Truro
· Truro Mall
· Sobeys Truro, 985 Prince St.
Yarmouth
· Yarmouth Mall

*Certain conditions apply. Offers are available for a limited time and are subject to change without notice. For the latest details please visit or call us today. Handset offers are available to new primary customers who sign on a three year contract and for existing customers who add one secondary rate share unit to their contract on select rate plans. Fun Bundle pricing available with 3 month subscription to Fun Bundle 15 or 20 on new 3 year contract. While supplies last. One-time activation ($35) may apply. See in-store for details. Subject to credit approval. While supplies last.

Automotive

A METRO JOINT VENTURE WITH: carguide magazine.com



Maximum Mini Cooper

Clubman's expansive interior space doesn't cramp car's funky style

B. MCLAUCHLAN
for Metro Canada

There's no question the Mini has a lot of appeal going for it. Lots of people find it hard to resist the Mini's combination of compact size, funky styling and frugal fuel consumption.

But if the only thing keeping you out of a Mini until now was its lightness on practicality, then deny yourself no more.

The new Clubman "wagon" is Mini's response to those who viewed it as a fun-to-drive little car but felt it came up a bit short on interior space. Compared with the original Mini hatchback, the Clubman sits on a three-inch longer wheelbase and adds almost 10 inches of overall body length.

These stretches not only make the two-passenger rear seat more habitable but also put 63 per cent more cargo room behind the back seats. And a rear-hinged "suicide" type rear half-door on the passenger side and a pair of swing-out rear doors make it very easy to get into the rear compartment or stash some stuff in the back.





The new Clubman "wagon" is Mini's response to those who viewed it as a fun-to-drive little car but felt it came up a bit short on interior space.

Like the regular Mini hatchback, the Clubman comes in Cooper and Cooper S flavours. Like its hatchback counterpart, the entry-level Cooper, which starts at $26,400, gets its power from a 118-horsepower, 1.6-litre four-cylinder engine. The more potent Cooper S, with a $31,500 starting price, draws its extra punch from a 172-hp turbocharged version of the same 1.6-litre four. Standard manual and optional automatic transmissions are both six-speed units.

In the case of the Clubman, more weight (roughly 80 kg) and that longer wheelbase may slightly dampen the Mini's legendary agility, but there's still plenty to spare for making it a blast to drive.

Along with all the Mini's major mechanical bits, the Clubman inherits the interior that endeared the hatchback to so many of its owners. The dash and centre console area is peppered with clear, round dial shapes, dominated by a big central speedometer complete with an array of secondary control switches.

With seats just as comfortable and supportive as those in the regular Mini, the interior is decently habitable, but the real bonus can be found in the Clubman's 930-litre cargo capacity — enough space to swallow a mountain bike, camping gear or what have you.

2008 Mini Clubman Cooper

Type: Subcompact 4-pass. wagon FWD
Price: $26,400
Engine: 1.6L L4 DOHC
HP: 118 @ 6,000 rpm
Torque: 114 @ 4,250 rpm

Highlights

- BMW-bred engineering and safety
- Extra rear-seat legroom
- Cargo space

Bumper plan road to imports?

AMENDMENT Canadian motorists pay attention: Our government may finally be opening the door to a whole new world of import automobiles.

The federal government has proposed an amendment to the Motor Vehicle Safety Regulations (MVSR) to harmonize Canadian bumper standards for passenger cars with standards from the U.S. and Europe.

Could this mean Citroëns, Vauxhalls and Peugeots prowling our streets? It's too early to tell, but the amendment would mean one global bumper design for North American and European market vehicles.

"This proposed amendment would offer more choice to Canadians who wish to import vehicles," said Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities. "At the same time, it would help to maintain the safety of Canadian roads."

The proposed change is part of the Canada-U.S. Security and Prosperity Partnership to reduce regulatory differences and facilitate international trade while maintaining high levels of safety.



NISSAN GAS ADVANTAGE.

SAVE 20¢ ON EVERY LITRE FOR ONE YEAR.*

2008 NISSAN SENTRA 2.0

LEASE FOR $198** PER MTH FOR 60 MTHS EXCLUDES FREIGHT & PDE

LEASE RATE 1.9% $0 SECURITY DEPOSIT

$0 DOWN PAYMENT

NISSAN GAS ADVANTAGE. CITY: 8.3L/100KM (34MPG), HIGHWAY: 6.4L/100KM (44MPG)



2.0 S model shown

0% PURCHASE FINANCING FOR UP TO 60 MTHS.‡

Awarded "Top Safety Pick" by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.



LE AWD model shown



"Best New SUV/CUV Under $35,000"

$1,000 ecoAUTO REBATE[3]



2.5 SL AWD model shown

NEW 2009 NISSAN MURANO S AWD

LEASE FOR $398** PER MTH FOR 48 MTHS EXCLUDES FREIGHT & PDE

LEASE RATE 3.9% $5,125 DOWN PAYMENT

$0 SECURITY DEPOSIT

NISSAN GAS ADVANTAGE. CITY: 11.8L/100KM (24MPG), HIGHWAY: 8.7L/100KM (32MPG)



3.5 SE model shown

"Most Appealing Midsize Car in the U.S."[2] – J.D. Power and Associates

2008 NISSAN ALTIMA 2.5 S CVT

LEASE FOR $298** PER MTH FOR 48 MTHS EXCLUDES FREIGHT & PDE

LEASE RATE 2.5% $0 SECURITY DEPOSIT

$0 DOWN PAYMENT

BEST IN CLASS FUEL ECONOMY[1]

NISSAN GAS ADVANTAGE. CITY: 8.9L/100KM (32MPG), HIGHWAY: 6.3L/100KM (45MPG)

ALL-NEW 2008 NISSAN ROGUE 2.5 S FWD

LEASE FOR $268** PER MTH FOR 48 MTHS EXCLUDES FREIGHT & PDE

LEASE RATE 3.9% $2,999 DOWN PAYMENT

$0 SECURITY DEPOSIT

NISSAN GAS ADVANTAGE. CITY: 9.1L/100KM (31MPG), HIGHWAY: 7.2L/100KM (39MPG)

NEW 2009 NISSAN VERSA 1.8 S HATCHBACK



1.8 SL model shown

HIGH ON FUEL EFFICIENCY. NEW LOW PRICE. $13,598**

CITY: 7.9L/100KM (36MPG), **HIGHWAY:** 6.3L/100KM (45MPG)

VISIT YOUR LOCAL NISSAN RETAILER TODAY OR NISSAN.CA FOR DETAILS

*Purchase or lease a new 2008 Nissan Sentra, Altima Sedan, Altima Coupe, Rogue, Pathfinder or 2009 Murano model between July 1st and August 31st, 2008 and save 20 cents per litre with Nissan's Preferred Price™ Card on 2500 litres of fuel at Petro-Canada™ retail locations. Nissan's Preferred Price Card will be activated within 72 hours of purchase/lease of an eligible Nissan vehicle. 40% purchase financing for up to 60 months available only on 2008 Sentra models. [1]Best in class fuel economy claim is based on 2007 Nissan Altima vs. non-hybrid competitors in Lower-Middle Sedan Category. [2]Nissan Altima Sedan received the highest numerical score among midsize cars in the proprietary J.D. Power and Associates 2007 U.S. Automotive Performance, Execution and Layout Study SM. Study based responses from 91,335 new vehicle owners, measuring 250 models and measures opinions of consumers after 90 days of ownership. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of consumers surveyed in February-May 2007. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com [3]You may be eligible for the Government of Canada's ecoAUTO rebate program. ecoAUTO rebate and fuel consumption estimates based on 2008 Rogue FWD. Actual mileage may vary with driving conditions – use for comparison only. **Lease Examples: $16,798 MSRP for a 2008 Sentra 2.0 (C4LG58 AA00) at 1.9% lease rate for a 60 month term. Monthly payment is $198 with $0 down payment, $0 security deposit, $1,400 freight and PDE, license, levies, insurance, registration and taxes, due at lease inception. Lease based on a maximum of 24,000 km per year with excess charged at $0.10/km. Total lease obligation is $11,880. For a 2008 Sentra 2.0 (C4LG58 AA00) at 1.9% lease rate for a 48 month term. Monthly payment is $268 with $2,999 down payment, $0 security deposit, $1,400 freight and PDE, license, levies, insurance, registration and taxes, due at lease inception. Lease based on a maximum of 24,000 km per year with excess charged at $0.10/km. Total lease obligation is $12,864. For a 2008 Sentra 2.0 (C4LG58 AA00) at 1.9% lease rate for a 36 month term. Monthly payment is $398 with $5,125 down payment, and $0 security deposit. $1,400 freight and PDE, license, levies, insurance, registration and taxes, due at lease inception. Lease based on a maximum of 24,000 km per year with excess charged at $0.10/km. Total lease obligation is $14,328. For a 2008 Rogue 2.5 S FWD (W6RG18 AA00) at 3.9% lease rate for a 48 month term. Monthly payment is $268 with $2,999 down payment, $0 security deposit, $1,400 freight and PDE, license, levies, insurance, registration and taxes, due at lease inception. Lease based on a maximum of 24,000 km per year with excess charged at $0.10/km. Total lease obligation is $12,864. For a 2008 Rogue 2.5 S FWD (W6RG18 AA00) at 3.9% lease rate for a 48 month term. Monthly payment is $298 with $0 down payment, $0 security deposit, $1,300 freight and PDE, license, levies, insurance, registration and taxes, due at lease inception. Lease based on a maximum of 24,000 km per year with excess charged at $0.10/km. Total lease obligation is $14,304. For a new 2009 Murano AWD S (L6RG19 AA00) at 3.9% lease rate for a 48 month term. Monthly payment is $398 with $5,125 down payment, and $0 security deposit. $1,400 freight and PDE, license, levies, insurance, registration and taxes, due at lease inception. Lease based on a maximum of 24,000 km per year with excess charged at $0.10/km. Total lease obligation is $19,112. For a new 2009 Murano AWD S (L6RG19 AA00) at 3.9% lease rate for a 36 month term. Monthly payment is $568 with $5,125 down payment, $0 security deposit, $1,400 freight and PDE, license, levies, insurance, registration and taxes, due at lease inception. Lease based on a maximum of 24,000 km per year with excess charged at $0.10/km. Total lease obligation is $20,448. For a 2008 Sentra 2.0 (C4LG58 AA00): $16,798 MSRP, including $1,225 freight and PDE, financed at 0% APR for 60 months equals $196.63 per month with $5,000 down payment. Cost of borrowing is $0 for a total obligation of $16,798. (B5LG59 AA00). $1,175 freight and PDE, license, levies, insurance, registration and taxes, due at lease inception. Finance example for a 2008 Sentra 2.0 (C4LG58 AA00): $16,798 MSRP, including $1,225 freight and PDE, license, levies, insurance, registration and taxes, due at lease inception. Lease based on a maximum of 24,000 km per year with excess charged at $0.10/km. Total lease obligation is $15,863. $13,598 MSRP for a new 2008 Versa Hatchback, 1.8 S Up to $84 PPSA and taxes are extra. Lease and finance offers available on Nissan vehicles on approved credit through Nissan Canada Finance. Retailers are free to set individual prices. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Vehicles may require factory order. Offers available for a limited time, may change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers.*

Athletics
Olympic triple jump champ Christian Olsson of Sweden will miss the Beijing Games after reinjuring his thigh at a meet yesterday. REUTERS

Beijing Games

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE BOMBA, STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

Sprinter Ottey fails to qualify

ATHLETICS Jamaican-born sprinter Merlene Ottey has failed in her final attempt to achieve the 100 metres qualifying time that would have enabled her to become the first track and field athlete to compete in eight Olympic Games.

Ottey, 48, finished second at a meeting in the Slovenian city of Maribor yesterday, said Robert Rudelic of the Athletic Club Poljane.

She missed the qualifying time by 28 hundredths of a second.

Diego ignores team's warning

SOCCER Werder Bremen playmaker Diego defied orders from his Bundesliga club and left Germany yesterday to join Brazil's Olympic team, following the footsteps of Schalke 04 defender Rafinha who went absent without leave on Monday.

Sporting director Klaus Allofs announced the club would take action after warning Diego he would not be released, even though FIFA said clubs must release under-23 players for the Olympics soccer tournament.

Crackdown on replica guns

BEIJING China has launched a one-month crackdown on the production and sale of replica guns as an added security measure in the lead-up to next month's Games, state media reported yesterday. REUTERS

Sports in brief

CITY LIFE Beijing will plant more than 40 million potted flowers around Olympic venues and city streets, Xinhua news agency said yesterday.

TICKETS Beijing will put 820,000 Olympic tickets on sale at booths scattered around Olympic venues on Friday, Games organizers said. REUTERS

Tomorrow's lineup

TEAM CANADA For more on today's announcement on who will be carrying our flag and representing our country at the Games, read tomorrow's Metro.

15 days remain until the official start of the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing.

Full team ahead

First time Canada will send six to compete in triathlon

ANDREA WOO
for Metro Canada

For the first time since the triathlon's debut at the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney, Canada will be sending a full team of six — three men, three women — to compete on the world stage in the endurance sport of running, cycling and swimming.

Colin Jenkins found out he made the men's team after the 2008 world championships in Vancouver, where he placed 55th and was named to the team by Triathlon Canada's high-performance committee. This will be the Hamilton, Ont., native's Olympic debut.

"They called us up into the hotel room one by one and told us whether we made it or not, and luckily they said that I did make it," he said. "My whole family was there so I went back down to my room and we celebrated. I was really happy. It's pretty amazing to have something that you've worked hard for for so long and to finally achieve it."

For Montreal's Kathy Tremblay, who was appointed to the women's team that same day, competing in the Olympics was never a matter of if, but when.



JEFF HODSON/METRO CANADA

Canadian gold medallist Simon Whitfield prepares to test the waters of English Bay in May to promote the 2008 Vancouver Triathlon World Championships.

"I never had any plan B," said the 26-year-old. "I've only had plan A, which was going to the Olympics. I always knew I was going to Beijing, so now it's like, thank God, I can say I'm going there, not soon or 'I just need to wait.'"

Tremblay is the top-ranked Canadian in the World Cup rankings at No. 14.

The other triathletes Canada will be sending are Simon Whitfield of Victoria, Paul Tichelaar of Edmonton, Lauren Groves of Vancouver, and Carolyn Murray of St. Albert, Alta.

In early June, it was announced the men would implement a team strategy where Jenkins and Tichelaar would work to get Whitfield — the 2000 Summer Games gold medallist and a real contender again this time around — back on the podium.

Coach Joel Filliol told media in a conference call in June that it was in the team's best interest to have each athlete play to their strengths. Jenkins, for example, has a background in swimming and is exceptionally strong in the discipline. Filliol added there would be no such strategy for the women's team.

Facts

- The triathlon will take place at the Ming Tomb Reservoir, also known as the Shisanling Reservoir, in the Changping District of Beijing on Aug. 18 and 19.
- The triathlon had its Olympic debut at the 2000 Summer Games in Sydney.
- The course consists of a 1.5-kilometre swim, a 40-km bike ride and a 10-km run.



RAFE ARNOTT/METRO CANADA FILE

Colin Jenkins runs during the final laps of the 2008 BG Triathlon World Cup in Vancouver's Stanley Park.


RAFE ARNOTT/METRO CANADA FILE

Kathy Tremblay smiles at the 2008 BG Triathlon World Cup finish line after completing the gruelling race.

The team is currently training six or seven days a week. It will head to Beijing on Aug. 12, leaving six days for its members to adjust to the climate and time zone change before the triathlon event begins on Aug. 18.

"I don't want to be the tourist going to Beijing, going to the McDonald's," said Tremblay with a laugh. "I really want to perform there and give my all, then come back home and say, 'I enjoyed that,' and plan another in four years in London."

U.S. team bringing 'top secret' masks to Beijing

Along with their array of world champions and specially imported food, the U.S. Olympic team will be bringing a "top secret" weapon to China: Custom-designed masks.

The more than 600 U.S. Olympians will be offered the masks once they arrive in Beijing, where air quality continues to be a concern. The program to develop the masks has been underway for two years. The project's author, physiologist Randy Wilber, told the Wall Street Journal that details were "quite honestly, top secret."

The spectre of hundreds of athletes parading into the opening ceremony arrayed as if ready for chemical warfare is a serious nightmare for Chinese officials. But America's cloak-and-dagger tone only amuses Canada's top Olympic doctor Robert McCormack.

"The way they're couching makes it sound as if they have something magical," he said.

McCormack speculated that the U.S. plan, and the timing of its release, might be a case of gadget one-upmanship between teams.

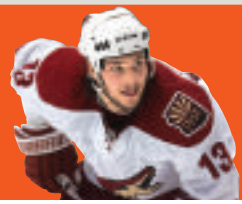
"There's the games before the Games," McCormack said. "You want to be seen to be doing something more than anybody else."

Nonetheless, Canada has a parallel program.

"We have done a fair amount of work experimenting with different masks," McCormack said. Along with the team's other essential supplies, a shipment of Canadian masks have already landed in Beijing. Though the athletes will not wear them during competition, they might consider using them when moving around outdoors. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NFL
The San Diego Chargers have signed defensive end Luis Castillo to a new seven-year contract, locking him up through the 2014 season. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports



Carcillo re-signs

The Phoenix Coyotes re-signed left winger Daniel Carcillo, left, to a two-year contract, the team announced yesterday. Carcillo, 23, registered 13 goals and 11 assists in 57 games last season and broke the Jets/Coyotes franchise rookie-mark with 324 penalty minutes.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

SPORTS EDITOR: JONATHAN P. KUEHLEIN, SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Favre to Argos? Don't bet on it!

YorkReport



Marty York
marty.york@metronews.ca

Brett Favre, the message on my voice mail insisted, is mulling over an offer from the Toronto Argonauts that would make him not only the quarterback of the CFL team but also its part-owner.

"Is your source good?" Argos general manager Adam Rita asked. "Who is it?"

"Don't know," I replied. "He didn't identify himself. He said he'd lose his job if he were exposed. He said you and (Argos co-owner) David Cynamon have been talking to Favre's agent for more than a week."

"Great story, eh?" Rita responded. "Hell of a story … But not true."

The Argos have had no contact with Favre or his agent, Rita said. And Favre's agent, Bus Cook, concurred when I spoke with him via telephone yesterday.

So someone's a liar — probably the dude who left the anonymous message — but genuine blockbuster stories have been leaked to me this way in the past and it would've been irresponsible for me not to at least check. And if Favre happens to join the Argos, I'll still brag that I let you know about it first.

In the meantime, while Favre presumably continues to try to resume his illustrious career with the Green Bay Packers or some other NFL club and while I continue to do my due diligence on behalf of Metro readers throughout Canada, the Argos will just have to continue with Kerry Joseph as their QB.

Until last Sunday, that was problematic. Despite being chosen the CFL's outstanding player as the Saskatchewan Roughriders' QB last season, and despite being traded to the Argos in a hyped deal that hiked his salary and heightened Toronto's expectations, Joseph struggled and the Argos won only one of three games.

"There isn't much difference in this league between a 4-0 team and an 0-4 team."
Toronto Argonauts GM Adam Rita

Last Sunday, however, Joseph sparkled in a dramatic victory over the Edmonton Eskimos and turned in a gem unlike any by an Argo QB since Doug Flutie last decade. Because of Joseph's last-minute heroics, the Argos are tied atop the CFL East at 2-2.

This Sunday, Joseph will visit the franchise that deemed him unworthy of the raise he sought.

"I'm sure Kerry's psyched up," Rita acknowledged, "but more about winning than playing his former team."

The Riders are 4-0, but Rita said: "There isn't much difference in this league between a 4-0 team and an 0-4 team. Saskatchewan has been able to win at the ends of games, but we've proven we can, too. And we think we have the right quarterback."

And his name isn't Brett Favre. Not yet, anyway.

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

Trade bait?

• Metro columnist Marty York hears these MLB players are likely to be dealt by the July 31 trade deadline and ranks the likelihood from 1 to 5, with 5 being the strongest: Mark Texeira (4), Raul Ibanez (4), Xavier Nady (3.5), Jason Bay (2.5), Matt Holliday (4), Brian Fuentes (4.5), A.J. Burnett (2), Aubrey Huff (3), George Sherrill (3), Eddy Guardado (3), Omar Vizquel (3.5), Adrian Beltre (3).

Sports in brief

MLB Adam Lind highlighted a 14-hit attack with four of his own, including a go-ahead three-run home run in the sixth, as the Toronto Blue Jays wore down the Baltimore Orioles 10-8 last night. Lind finished 4-for-5 with two runs scored.

MLB The Houston Astros acquired veteran starter Randy Wolf from the San Diego Padres yesterday in exchange for minor-league pitcher Chad Reineke.

NBA The New Jersey Nets shipped point guard Marcus Williams to Golden State yesterday in exchange for future draft considerations. Williams was selected 22nd overall by the Nets in the 2006 NBA draft.

SOCCER The Montreal Impact are into the CONCACAF Champions League after earning clinching the Nutrilite Canadian Championship last night with a 1-1 draw against Toronto FC. METRO NEWS SERVICES

SCOREBOARD

MLB

LAST NIGHT'S RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Toronto 10 Baltimore 8
Chicago White Sox 10 Texas 2
N.Y. Yankees 8 Minnesota 2
Oakland 8 Tampa Bay 1
Detroit at Kansas City
Cleveland at L.A. Angels
Boston at Seattle

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Cincinnati 4 San Diego 3 (11 ings)
Florida 4 Atlanta 0
Milwaukee 4 St. Louis 3
Philadelphia 8 N.Y. Mets 6
Pittsburgh 8 Houston 2
L.A. Dodgers at Colorado
Chicago Cubs at Arizona
Washington at S. Francisco

TODAY'S GAMES

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Oakland at Tampa Bay, 1:40
Minnesota at N.Y. Yankees, 2:05
Texas at Chicago White Sox, 3:05
Detroit at Kansas City, 3:10
Cleveland at L.A. Angels, 4:35
Boston at Seattle, 5:40
Toronto at Baltimore, 8:05

NATIONAL LEAGUE
San Diego at Cincinnati, 1:35
Pittsburgh at Houston, 3:05
L.A. Dodgers at Colorado, 4:05
Atlanta at Florida, 8:10
Philadelphia at N.Y. Mets, 8:10
Milwaukee at St. Louis, 9:15
Chicago Cubs at Arizona, 10:40
Washington at S. Francisco, 11:15

CFL

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PTS
Montreal	2	2	0	4
Toronto	2	2	0	4
Hamilton	1	3	0	2
Winnipeg	0	4	0	0

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	T	GB
Saskatchewan	4	0	0	8
Calgary	3	1	0	6
Edmonton	2	2	0	4
B.C.	2	2	0	4

WEEK 5

TOMORROW'S GAME
Calgary at Winnipeg, 9

FRIDAY'S GAME
Edmonton at Hamilton, 8
Montreal at B.C., 11

SUNDAY'S GAME
Toronto at Saskatchewan, 8



MARK BLINCH/REUTERS

Novak Djokovic of Serbia serves to Frank Dancevic of Niagara Falls, Ont., last night at the Rogers Cup tennis tournament in Toronto. Djokovic won 6-4, 6-4.

Djokovic blows past Dancevic

TENNIS World No. 3 Novak Djokovic opened the defence of his Rogers Cup title in impressive style with a 6-4, 6-4 win over Canadian Frank Dancevic last night.

The Australian Open champion was joined in the third round by sixth seeded American Andy Roddick, who launched his hardcourt campaign earlier in the day with a battling 6-1, 6-7, 6-3 win over Frenchman Nicolas Mahut.

World No. 1 Roger Federer and Wimbledon champion Rafael Nadal open their accounts today after receiving first-round byes in the Toronto event.

Playing in his first event since a second-round loss to Marat Safin at Wimbledon, Djokovic took a little time to shake off the rust but soon got into his stride and broke Dancevic, a native of Niagara Falls, Ont., to take the opening set.

The 21-year-old Serb recorded an early break in the second to push 4-2 ahead but then wobbled as Dancevic, urged on by a raucous home crowd, staged a late rally by breaking back and holding serve.

But Djokovic responded with another decisive break to seal the match in 77 minutes.

"I was aware he had nothing to lose, the big Canadian hope playing in front of his crowd with big support," said Djokovic.

REUTERS

PIZZA & PAPER LOVERS!
metro
Your FREE daily.
Will be on location at:
Needs convenience
303 Prince Albert Rd, Dartmouth
Thursday, July 24
8:00am - 12 noon
Drop in to pick up your free Metro and fill out a ballot to win a $25.00 Gift Certificate to Hot Stuff Pizza!
HOT STUFF Pizza

Soccer

Nova Scotia's under-16 boys and girls teams earned victories at the Canadian all-star soccer championships yesterday. The girls beat Saskatchewan 1-0 in Sherwood Park, Alta., while the boys downed Saskatchewan 1-0 on penalty kicks Longueuil, Que. METRO HALIFAX

Kent relishes role as experienced rookie

47-year-old Paralympian table tennis athlete excited for his chance to go to Beijing

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

Ian Kent couldn't help but break into a smile when asked if he has been to the Paralympic Games before.

"I know my age and my hair colour would indicate I've been there before, but no, this is my first," chuckled the gray-haired Kent, after yesterday's Olympic sendoff under a rain-soaked tent at the Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron.

The 47-year-old table-tennis standout from Eastern Passage is nine years older than Nova Scotia's next oldest Paralympian and 15 years older than its oldest Olympian.

He's a father of three teenagers, a former national-team coach, and has played table tennis virtually his entire life.

But it wasn't until 2004, five years after being diagnosed with a rare neurological movement disorder called Dystonia at the age of 38, that he discovered para-table tennis.

It didn't take Kent long to get established in the sport. He punched his ticket to the Beijing Games last summer, when he captured a silver medal in Class 8 men's singles at the Para Pan-American Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Kent, who is currently ranked 12th in the world, said staying involved in table tennis has been important.

"My neurologist asked me, 'Where would you be without table tennis?' I was speechless," he recalled. "It means everything to me. The biggest thing I get out of it is normalcy."

He said his disorder, which he describes as "dynamic" because it changes day to day, poses difficult challenges.

"One day, I get up from a chair and walk out like you," he said. "The next day, I get up from a chair and I hobble out."

But he's confident he can succeed.

"It's getting my (proper) medication and rest," he says. "If that's in line, then I'm in line and in the hunt for a medal, for sure."

Nova Scotia's Olympians

A glance at Nova Scotia's Olympians.

• OLYMPIANS (8)

Adrienne Power, East Jeddore (athletics); Eric Gillis, Antigonish (athletics); Andrew Russell, Dartmouth (canoe); Karen Furneaux, Waverley (kayak); x-David Kikuchi, Fall River (artistic gymnastics); Tracy Cameron, Shubenacadie (rowing); Lisa Ross, Lunenburg (sailing); Oliver Bone, Halifax (sailing).

• PARALYMPIANS (4)

Paul Tingley, Halifax (sailing); Chelsey Gotell, Antigonish (swimming); Devin Gotell, Antigonish (swimming); Ian Kent, Eastern Passage (table tennis).

• COACHES (5)

Csom Latorovszki, Waverley (canoe-kayak); x-Tak Kikuchi, Fall River (artistic gymnastics); Craig Guthrie, Halifax (Paralympic sailing); Brian Todd, Glen Haven (Paralympic sailing); John McPherson, Eastern Passage (Paralympic table tennis).

x — Spot dependent upon David Kikuchi's health during final pre-Olympic camp.



MATTHEW WUEST/METRO HALIFAX

Nova Scotia's Olympians pose for a photo at yesterday's send-off at the Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron. From left, back row, Oliver Bone, Karen Furneaux, Lisa Ross, Brian Todd, Csom Latorovski, Adrienne Power and Nova Scotia minister of health promotion and protection Barry Barnet. From left, front row, Paul Tingley, Ian Kent and Andrew Russell.

RIM

Technically speaking.

Those in BlackBerry Technical Support know what they're talking about.



With the millions of people worldwide who rely on their BlackBerry® smartphone to stay connected, working in BlackBerry Technical Support at Research In Motion (RIM) is the perfect place to showcase your expert troubleshooting skills, knowledge of Microsoft® Exchange and understanding of Microsoft Windows® Operating Systems.

As we lead the wireless industry, our 14 million BlackBerry smartphone subscribers, as well as all of us here at RIM, appreciate the technical experience and knowledge that our dedicated support system proudly displays.

In BlackBerry Technical Support, you are an important part of a global operation, which means growth opportunities could be coming your way a lot faster than you think.

Go to www.rim.com/go/cso for jobs that speak volumes in Halifax.

© 2008 Research In Motion Limited. All rights reserved. BlackBerry®, RIM®, Research In Motion®, SureType® and related trademarks, names and logos are the property of Research In Motion Limited and are registered and/or used in the U.S. and countries around the world.

BlackBerry

Record-tying Furneaux living her dream with Games berth

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

Waverley kayaker Karen Furneaux will join select company when she hits the water in Beijing next month.

The 31-year-old is competing in the third Summer Olympic Games of her career, one away from Nova Scotia's record. Lake Echo canoeist Steve Giles, who retired after the last Olympics in Athens, holds the current standard with four.

"It's tough — our sport is very competitive," said Furneaux, at yesterday's Olympic sendoff at the Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron. "It was always a dream of mine to be in China. At the closing ceremonies in Athens, I told myself I'd be in Beijing. Now I'm going. It's really quite something."

Only one other Nova Scotian, Dartmouth rower Todd Hallett, is known to have competed in three Summer Olympics.

Furneaux has recovered from troublesome back and shoulder injuries sustained last summer, when it seemed her career might be winding down. Her times were uncharacteristically slow and she was left off the national team at one point.

This summer, she has been Canada's top female kayaker, knocking off Quebec's Emilie Fournel for the Olympic K-1 spot and also earning a job with the K-4 crew.

"I'm racing both events and it's always been my dream," she said. "It's really special for me and I'm very excited."

Furneaux, whose best Olympic finish is fifth, said she feels as strong as she's felt her entire career. But that doesn't mean she is looking ahead to a fourth Games yet.

"The world championships are here in Dartmouth next year so I'm definitely hoping to compete in that," she said. "After that, I'll just take it year-by-year … So we'll see."



MATTHEW WUEST/METRO HALIFAX

Karen Furneaux will be making her third Olympic appearance in Beijing tying a Nova Scotia record for Summer Games spots.

Sweet deal
During select weeks in August and September, Virginia Beach will host Canada Weeks, inviting Canadians to experience the beach like a local while enjoying one extra night free. Visit *www.vbfun.com/canadaweeks*. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Travel



Hotel Karl

Chanel designer Karl Lagerfeld is set to create a series of fashion-themed boutique hotels and luxury villas for Dubai's Isla Moda, the world's first dedicated fashion archipelago. METRO WORLD NEWS

Strolling Berlin's hippest 'hoods

JENNIFER LESIEUR
Metro World News

Imagine a city eight times the size of Paris, with hardly any more inhabitants. Imagine parks and roads like gigantic sports pitches. Imagine rent and dinners that are half the price of most of Europe.

Berlin isn't necessarily the most beautiful city in the world, but it is one of the most pleasant. It's no surprise that it's a magnet for a wide range of creative types, from artists to musicians. Following are some of the city's trendiest neighbourhoods — explore them by foot, or by bike, like the Berliners.



METRO WORLD NEWS

Shopping for streetwear in Berlin.

Kreuzberg

Take a walk down Zossener Strasse and loiter a while at Soultrade-Scratch records, and its neighbour, Space Hall, the best record shop to go to for the lastest CDs from Berlin indie labels including Kitty-Yo and BPitch, *soultrade.de*. Just below, Bergmann Strasse is a quiet little road where the café terraces sit side by side with flea markets and upmarket boutiques.

Stop at Bagage, where all sorts of cutting-edge bags hang from the walls and brands include Kultbag and Bereitschaftstasche. Two metro stations away is the start of Oranienstrasse. It would be impossible to count the design shops here — there's nothing else! Fashionistas should navigate towards the immense space that's home to local fashion label UVR Connected (*uvr-connected.de*), then move on to the designs for sale at Cherry Bomb. Hit the Videodrom Shop, a pop culture paradise, for an impressive choice of films, books and mainstream gadgets.

Prenzlauer Berg

The Prenzlauer Berg area stretches out around the metro station at Eberswalder Strasse. Lose yourself in Pappelallee, Schliemann Strasse and Duncker Strasse before ordering a bespoke bag made from recycled materials at Tausche, at Helmholtzplatz, *tausche-berlin.de*.

Walk down Kastanienallee (where you'll find Prater, the oldest biergarten in the city) and stray down the roads just off it, where artists have transformed the buildings and created little stores where variety is king. Second-hand clothing fans should visit Schwedter Strasse, a tranquil street lined with pretty cafes.

Mitte

You'll find the main streetwear brands — including Carhartt, Crumpler, Wesc and Vans — along and around Oranienburger Strasse, the main road running through the Mitte district.

Try on hundreds of unique sunglasses at Funkstore, then buy clothes to go with them, *www.funkstore.com*. Rosenthaler Strasse is streetwear paradise, and skaters meet up at Titus Shop on Spandauer Strasse, *titus.de*.

For hip homewares, stroll towards Neue Schoenhauser Strasse and stop at Schoenhauser, *www.schoenhauser-design.de*, where you'll find everything from '50s stools to an ashtray made from boiled cardboard.

Next walk up Alte Schonhauser Strasse, base camp of local fashion labels such as Skunkfunk. Next design destination is Mykita *www.mykita.com*, the trendy opticians on Rosa-Luxemburg Strasse. Visit for the very cool handmade, innovative, ultra-light frames, and stay to look round the dazzling showroom.

Feeling tired? It's time to take a design break: walk to number 17 and take a seat at Susuru, *www.susuru.de*, a funny little noodle bar with space age décor — it's chic and cheap, with excellent food.



METRO WORLD NEWS

The routes our writer recommends will take you through streets transformed by resident artists.

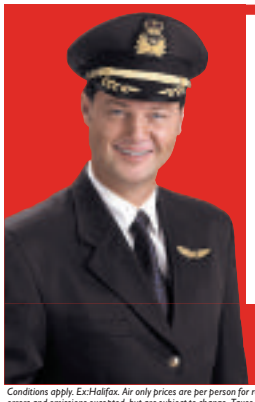
Travel tips

How to get there:
- Low cost carriers fly to both Schoenefeld and Berlin Tegel. Both airports are about 20-30 minutes by Airport Express train from the centre.

Where to stay:
- Winter's Hotel Berlin Mitte am Checkpoint Charlie is a quiet hotel with minimalist décor, *www.winters.de*.
- Hotel Berlin Berlin on Lutzowplatz has 700 newly renovated rooms, *www.hotel-berlin-berlin.com*.

Reading matter:
- Pick up the free magazine Ein000, available in shops across the capital.

METRO WORLD NEWS



Airfares

Toronto	$119 + $207 taxes & fees
New York	$248 + $223 taxes & fees
Montreal	$228 + $191 taxes & fees
Glasgow	$359 + $160 taxes & fees
Beijing	$1249 + $643 taxes & fees

Holidays

Orlando $509 + $109 taxes & fees
INCLUDES includes roundtrip airfare, 7 night accommodations and a 7-day intermediate car rental with unlimited mileage.

San Francisco $719 + $198 taxes & fees
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare and 3 nights 3-star accommodation. ADD a whitewater rafting & wine tour for $199 per person!

Holidays

Varadero $807 + $206 taxes & fees
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, hotel transfers and 7 nights 4-star all-inclusive accommodation.

London $919 + $583 taxes & fees
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare and 6 nights 3-star accommodation in central London with Oxford Street nearby. BONUS Continental breakfast included daily.

Cruise & Stay Holiday

New Orleans & Mexico $879 + $254 taxes & fees
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare to New Orleans, a 4-night Caribbean cruise sailing roundtrip from New Orleans and visits Cozumel, Mexico and 3 nights 3-star accommodation in the heart of the French Quarter. UPGRADE to an oceanview stateroom from $20 per day.

FLIGHT CENTRE Unbeatable 1 866 485 7093 | flightcentre.ca

PERFECT HOLIDAY PROMISE Enjoy your holiday or we'll give you $100 towards another one!†

Conditions apply. Ex:Halifax. Air only prices are per person for return travel unless otherwise stated. Package holiday & cruise prices are per person, based on double occupancy. Prices are subject to availability at advertising deadline and are for select departure dates. Prices are accurate at time of publication, errors and omissions excepted, but are subject to change. Taxes, not included except as noted, are approximate and are subject to change. Pete rules. Carnival Cruise Lines price is in $US, and is subject to currency fluctuations. † The Perfect Holiday Promise applies to bookings made at Flight Centre shops within Canada. A $100 voucher for future travel will be provided to customers who experience an unwanted deviation from their paid itinerary. For full details visit www.flightcentre.ca or speak to a Flight Centre consultant.

Freebie ideas for travellers

1 Bicycles: Cities like Copenhagen, Zurich, Bern and Helsinki, allow you to borrow a bicycle from stands stationed around the city.

2 Podcasts: Download podcasts to your MP3 player. Try Rick Steves, Zevisit and Open House New York for free guides.

3 Transport: In Germany, 27 InterCity Hotels offer free local transportation to guests, while visitors to New York can't beat the (free) Staten Island Ferry. REUTERS

Discover Exciting Brazil
5 day tour - $730*
Explore the sites & sounds of Rio de Janeiro and relax on world famous Copacabana Beach
*Airfare, transfers and most meals are not included. Taxes and surcharges are additional. Certain conditions may apply. Departures between July-Dec/08. Please ask us for more details.
1589 Barrington Street
482-8006
THE ADVENTURE TRAVEL COMPANY

LOOK INSIDE THE SUMMER IN THE CITY SECTION OF METRO ON JULY 25 FOR YOUR CHANCE TO
WIN
A CREST AND ORAL-B WHITE HOT SMILES IN THE CITY PRIZE PACK
Prize pack includes an Oral-B Triumph with SmartGuide toothbrush, Crest Whitestrips Premium Plus and Crest Health & Radiance.
Crest Oral-B metro Do it daily.
No purchase necessary. One entry per person. Contest open to Canadian residents of legal age, excluding residents of Quebec. Contest closes July 25, 2008. Approximate retail value of prize is $240. Odds of winning depend on number of entries received.

Taking a prison break

Philippines penitentiary isn't your usual tourist getaway

TheTravelJunkie



Julia Dimon

www.thetraveljunkie.ca



JULIA DIMON/FOR METRO CANADA

At the Iwahig prison, some inmates are allowed to bring along their families to live with them.

A popular tourist zone in the Philippines, Palawan is home to world-class diving, a UNESCO-protected underground cave — and the Iwahig Prison & Penal Farm.

It's an open-air penitentiary that is both working institution and tourist attraction.

With some 3,000 prisoners living in this "prison without walls," tourists are welcome to browse and buy handicrafts made by inmates. This unusual place opened in 1904 and was intended to isolate "the worst and incorrigible" offenders on this small island.

Today, Iwahig prison is divided into foursub-colonies with 133 inmates in maximum security, 2,220 in medium and 769 in minimum security.

Inmates work in "agro-industries," toiling away under the afternoon sun in what looks like a farming community. Some of the convicts are even allowed to live there with their families!

There are no visible walls, barbed wire fences or guards with guns, only hectares of rice paddies with men hard at work. It would be difficult for any prisoner to arrange for transportant off the island and head counts are conducted regularly. Thus, escape attempts are rare.

I find myself at the entrance of the prison, trying to talk to Ramirez, the security guard, into letting our team film inside the prison. Our tourist group had come to Palawan specifically to film this place.

The guard says I can enter as a tourist and check out the souvenir shop, but no cameras are allowed. Stonewalled, I concede, and hop in our vehicle for a quick drive through the premises.

Groups of unconfined inmates are weeding by hand in fields.

The colour of their t-shirts indicate the status of their sentences: brown for minimum security, blue for medium, and orange (which tourists don't see because they are kept in a conventional prison with armed guards) for maximum security inmates.

On the way to the souvenir shop, we drive through a quaint suburb that houses the prison staff, with a primary school, a little market and a groomed tennis court.

I hop out of the car to check out the goods. Though authorities claim the handicrafts are made by prisoners, I'm convinced they were made in China. Cheap necklaces, turtle-shaped ashtrays, woven baskets and … wooden nunchuks? Selling weapons at a prison is probably not the greatest of ideas.

Outside the shop, business transactions with inmates is an official no-no. Had I known this, I wouldn't have purchased a most unusual souvenir.

I'm seated in the back of the car. A medium security inmate approaches the driver's side with something under his shirt.

Turns out, inmates are clandestinely selling their prison uniforms to tourists. I watch as the driver and the inmate negotiate an illegal transaction.

It has the secrecy of a drug deal, except the only thing I score is cotton. This blue t-shirt, inscribed with the Iwahig logo, costs me the equivalent of $5.

The trade happens so fast, I'm left with a strange token of my trip and uneasy feelings about the underground economy I'd just supported.



Band back
Following its successful NXNE festival performance, the band Paper Lions – formerly Chucky Danger – will perform at The Seahorse on Saturday, Aug. 2. METRO HALIFAX

Entertainment



Remixers
Electro duo L.A. Riots are appearing at The Marquee Club this Friday at 10 p.m. Tickets are $10 at the door.

Dark comedy gets its due

DEAN LISK
dean.lisk@metronews.ca

People may assume directing a drama is hard, but Chaz Thorne thinks comedic filmmakers are the ones who don't get the respect they deserve.

"It's funny, people treat a comedy like it is a guilty pleasure, and it is very rare they get nominated for an Academy Award," he said. "But as a filmmaker who has done both, it's not even comparable."

A Halifax native, Thorne is about to see his full-length directorial debut, the dark comedy Just Buried, premiere in theatres across Canada Friday.

The film — shot in his hometown — is about the put-upon Oliver Zinck, played by Knocked Up's Jay Baruchel, who has just inherited the failing family funeral home.

With nobody dying, his embalmer girlfriend, Sunshine's Rose Byrne, comes up with a plan to dig up some new business by killing off locals.

"I know I have a niche, and a very dark sense of humour," said Thorne, who also penned the script.

He received the 2008 Atlantic Film Festival award for directing Just Buried, and a writing award for Poor Boy's Game — co-written with Toronto-based director Clément Virgo.

"I want people with the right sense of humour to find this movie because there are all kinds of senses of humour. If you are really into fart and dick jokes, or American Pie-type humour, or political humour, than this may not be your thing."

It was only after the film was shown at the Toronto International Film last year that Thorne's anxiety eased off. A younger nighttime audience at the premiere got the humour, as did an older crowd during an early-morning screening.

Thorne said it was that idea of a theatrical experience that he was conscious of when he was directing Just Buried. Not only do you shoot it in a different way — because faces will be 15 feet wide — but there is also something special about seeing a comedy in a theatre with other people, he said.

"It is instantaneously obvious when you are sitting in an audience whether your film works."



Actress Rose Byrne and director Chaz Thorne on the set of the Halifax-made film, Just Buried.

See it

- Chaz Thorne's Just Buried will be screened starting Friday at Empire Theatre in Bayers Lake.

Dark Knight keeps up North American roll

It turns out Batman is more of a superhero than first thought.

The latest instalment in the Caped Crusader franchise, The Dark Knight, enhanced its status as the biggest movie opening of all time at the North American box office, according to final data issued on Monday by its distributor, Warner Bros. Pictures.

The film grossed $158.4 US million during its first three days of release across the United States and Canada — a $3-million improvement over Sunday's estimate from the Time Warner Inc.-owned studio.

It's not unusual for final weekend data to veer slightly from the initial estimate.

In the case of The Dark Knight, some rival studios had suggested Warner Bros. was a little optimistic, though no one really doubted that it would beat the opening-weekend record of $151.1 million set by Spider-Man 3 in May 2007.

Moreover, The Dark Knight collected $41.3 million in ticket sales from 20 foreign markets — up from Sunday's estimate of $40 million. That brings its worldwide total to $199.7 million.

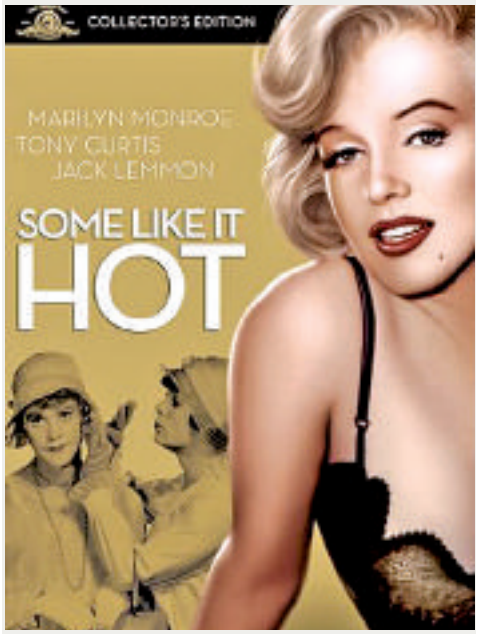
Foreign sales were led by No. 1 openings in late co-star Heath Ledger's native Australia ($13.7 million), Mexico ($7 million) and Brazil ($4.45 million).

Upcoming openings include Italy today and Britain on Friday. REUTERS



Heath Ledger stars in The Dark Knight.

elFresco filmFesto **No rain, please**



Organizers at the elFresco filmFesto are probably keeping their fingers crossed that post-tropical storm Cristobal passes quickly. The outdoor film festival, which sees movies screened on the side of the Electropolis, is scheduled to show its first movie of the season, Some Like It Hot (above), Friday night. All shows start at 9 p.m. or dusk at Tall Ship Quay. The rain date is Saturday night. Admission is a $5 donation. Visit www.atlanticfilm.com for more information and a complete list of this year's films.

Pride Week fave returns

Hissy Fit, an annual Halifax Pride Week favourite, returns to Reflection's Cabaret tonight at 10. The show will be hosted by Debbie Diamond and features bands performing in drag. Taking part this year are Chief Thundercloud, The Ether, Shotgun Doctor, Mantasy, The Fantods and Audible Colour. Admission is $3, or free if you are in drag. Here is a look at what else is going during the next couple days of Halifax Pride 2008, which runs through Sunday:

TODAY

- Time Out Lecture series on homophobia and sports at the Spring Garden Road Library, noon
- The Youth Project presents GSI: Gender Scene Investigation, TBA
- Swing dancers at Blue Moon Bistro, 8 p.m.

TOMORROW

- Time Out Lecture series on gender at the Spring Garden Road Library, noon
- Reading OUT Loud at the Halifax North Library, 7 p.m.
- Second annual DaPride Café presented by DaPoPo Theatre at Mollyz Dinner, 7:30 p.m.
- East Coast Outfitter's Pride Paddle at 6 p.m.
- Gay icons night at Reflections Cabaret, 10 p.m.

For more information, visit halifaxpride.com.

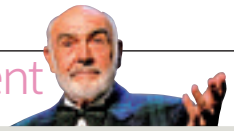
METRO HALIFAX

In brief

CAST NAMED Neptune Theatre has announced the cast of Devil's Disciple, its season opening production. Among those appearing in the George Bernard Shaw production are David Christoffel, Gordon White, Kate Lavender, John Beale, Bill Forbes and Steven Heisler. The curtain rises on Neptune's 45th season on Sept. 16.

WILDLIFE BENEFIT Bluesmen John Campbelljohn and Ross Neilson will headline a free concert to support Hope for Wildlife on Aug. 24. The concert is part of the seventh annual open house for the organization, which helps rehabilitate animals and birds. Also performing is Phil Potvin, Barry Cooke, and the Roosterman Blues Band. For more information, visit hopeforwildlife.net.

METRO HALIFAX



007 denies snub

Sean Connery has denied leaving son Jason out of his will — and has branded his ex-wife's claims "insane." The former Bond star has been accused by Diane Cilento — whom he was married to for 11 years — of refusing to leave his son anything. IMDB.COM

new direction



Miley Cyrus

Cyrus grows away from Montana

PEOPLE Miley Cyrus, the teen sensation of Disney Channel's Hannah Montana hit TV show, is growing up, releasing a new album called Breakout, and hoping her millions of young fans will come along for the ride.

"It's grown up. I wrote all the songs except two," said Cyrus, 15, of the new album, the first that does not play on her squeaky-clean Hannah Montana persona.

Set for release today, the bubbly pop CD is expected to storm record charts in North America where Cyrus was the 16th biggest touring act in 2007, selling $36 million US in tickets. REUTERS

Slackers refuse to grow up

Step Brothers exposes enabling parents, middle-aged moochers

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

It's not easy being parents. But imagine if you were the parents of two slackers who never grew up. Now imagine if those spoiled delinquents were fortysomethings Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly.

This is exactly the dramatic predicament both Richard Jenkins and Mary Steenburgen face as enabling on-screen parents to the middle-aged moochers in the new comedy Step Brothers. Sure, a pair of quarrelling fortysomething stay-at-home adults sounds like a ludicrous premise for a movie but it might not be that far-fetched a scenario after all.

"We looked into it and it turned out it was a real dynamic going on," says director Adam McKay. "The increase in adults living at home has gone up drastically in the last ten years and we were like, 'Oh my God, this is actually real'."



Actors John C. Reilly, left, and Will Ferrell star as a pair of fortysomething stay-at-home adults in the new film Step Brothers.

It sure is. In fact, according to a recent Statistics Canada study, over 43 per cent of Canadian young adults under the age of 29 were still living with their parents, up significantly from only two decades previous. Step Brothers isn't just joking around — it's exposing a burgeoning sociological problem.

Unlike the film, most "boomerang" adults who move back in with parents are primarily university students battling a mountain of debt. But those aren't the only financial difficulties keeping adults at home. Even if people manage to start working, entry-level positions don't even guarantee a salary anymore. As the Boston Globe's career columnist Penelope Trunk recently wrote, "the rise of the prestigious but unpaid internship intersects perfectly with the rise of the boomeranger."

> **"The increase in adults living at home has gone up drastically in the last ten years."**
> director Adam McKay

Sure, living with parents isn't a matter of choice for many but as the title of one of Trunk's articles shows ("Believe it or not, moving back home is now in"), this trend could affect attitudes toward the acceptable age for leaving home. Is it 25? How about 40?

Either way, while McKay insists the movie is just a zany comedy, its subtle message about parents enabling their children is definitely not lost on Step Brothers' on-screen parents.

"There's a little part of me that finds this a dream situation believe it or not," admits Steenburgen. "Thankfully I have, by some miracle, well-adjusted children that actually wanted to leave me."

Jenkins agrees. "I could've kept (my kids) around a few more years. It'd been OK with me."

"With the price of gas," interjects Steenburgen. "Nobody's going to be leaving (home) soon anyway."



Batman star denies allegations

Actor Christian Bale, star of The Dark Knight, yesterday denied allegations of assault made by his mother and sister after he was questioned by London police.

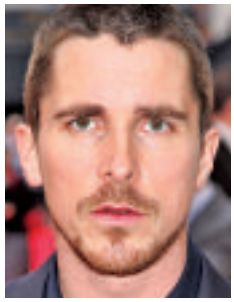
The 34-year-old spent several hours at a London police station before being released without charge, his U.S.-based spokeswoman Jennifer Allen said.

"Christian Bale attended a London police station today, on a voluntary basis, in order to assist with an allegation that had been made against him to the police by his mother and sister," Allen said in a statement.

"Mr. Bale, who denies the allegation, co-operated throughout, gave his account in full of the events in question, and has left the station without any charge being made against him by the police."

She confirmed separately that the allegation was of assault. When asked if Bale had been arrested and released on bail, a police spokeswoman said: "A 34-year-old man has been bailed to return to a police station on a date in September."

The wording is the usual tangential way British police confirm news about well-known personalities.



Christian Bale

Bale facts

- A martial arts enthusiast and environmental campaigner, Bale has also appeared in Batman Begins, American Psycho and Empire of the Sun.

A spokeswoman for the studio behind the film, Warner Bros. Pictures, which is part of Time Warner Inc., declined to comment on the situation.

The arrest follows allegations of assault made by Bale's mother and sister in relation to an incident at his London hotel suite late on Sunday, according to British media reports.

Welsh-born Bale was in London for the European premiere of The Dark Knight, which also stars the late Heath Ledger as the Joker. REUTERS

From runway to movie
Project Runway winner Christian Siriano is set to design a collection that will be showcased in the upcoming kid romp Eloise in Paris, starring newcomer Jordana Beatty as the Plaza-bred youngster and Uma Thurman as her ever-proper Nanny. **E! NEWS ONLINE**



Boy meets girl, music is born

BRIAN TOWIE
Metro Canada

A demure Hollywood starlet and a disheveled troubadour: An unlikely duo, but then She & Him does like to transcend convention.

"She" is actress and pin-up girl Zooey Deschanel, notorious for her roles in the Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy and M. Night Shamalayan's The Happening. "Him" is indie-folk songwriter M. Ward, better known for his 2006 album Post-War, 2005's Transistor Radio and his cameos on recordings by Norah Jones and Cat Power.

Together, they have embarked on their first tour for debut Vol. 1, a twangy, dreamy, analog work with 1960s girl pop undertones, with a selection of cover songs such as The Beatles' I Should Have Known Better and Smokey Robinson and The Miracles' You Really Got A Hold On Me (a track the Fab Four covered themselves in 1963).

Ward says his songwriting and production experience and Deschanel's smooth, glossy vocals compliment each other, and her star power affords him the opportunity to keep a svengali-like lower profile.

"I'm more than happy to share the stage with Zooey. I'm often not at my best in the front and it's nice to be able to return to the background," he said. "She's fearless and enthusiastic, and she probably has more of a connection to music than she does to acting."

"She's fearless and enthusiastic, and she probably has more of a connection to music than she does to acting."
Musician M. Ward

The pair met on the set of the 2007 indie film The Go-Getter, in which Deschanel starred and the two sang a Richard and Linda Thompson song When I Get To The Border for the ending credits.



"She" is actress Zooey Deschanel and "Him" is indie-folk songwriter M. Ward — the duo that make up She & Him and just released their new record yesterday.

Ward soon discovered that songwriting was a secret passion for Deschanel and that she had a litany of original tracks on her home computer, tunes she reluctantly submitted to him. Ward liked what he heard, and the duet came together to record. "It was easy to do because her melodies were so good," he said, adding they're currently at work on Vol. 2.

Ward, however, does admit the duet faces the "actor band" stigma, often credited to (or blamed on, depending on whom you talk to) such vanity projects as Jared Leto's 30 Seconds To Mars, Keanu Reeves' Dogstar, and Russell Crowe's 30 Odd Foot Of Grunts.

"It can be a huge distraction when you're trying to get from point A to B, but we're both pretty good at blocking all of that out." he says.

"All of that doesn't really faze me at all. As a producer, it's my job to beat a clear-cut path to the songs we want to sing."

IntelleVision



Rick McGinnis
WILL RETURN



Beyoncé

Vogue picks up string of top stars

FASHION ROCKS Leave it to Vogue magazine to get the hottest names in music for their Fashion Rocks event in New York on Sept. 5, intouchweekly.com reports.

This year, singers Beyoncé, Rihanna, Justin Timberlake, Fergie, Mariah Carey, Chris Brown and Keith Urban are set to rock Radio City Music Hall for the big fashion and music spectacle.

The entire show will air on CBS on Sept. 9.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Nia Vardalos

Vardalos' new film draws Fox

MOVIES Fox Searchlight will distribute My Life in Ruins, a romantic comedy starring Nia Vardalos (My Big Fat Greek Wedding) in North America, Australia and New Zealand.

The Donald Petrie-directed film, which co-stars Richard Dreyfuss, Harland Williams and Rachel Dratch, centers on a travel guide (Vardalos) who rediscovers her mojo as she leads tourists around Greece. The film is scheduled to be released in 2009. REUTERS

In brief

PRIMETIME Saturday Night Live veteran Amy Poehler will star on a new NBC comedy series from two of the producers behind the network's popular workplace satire The Office, executives said on Monday. Before she signed on as its star, Poehler's yet-to-be titled new show originally was conceived by NBC as a spinoff of The Office. REUTERS

				7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
7/23/08	31	31	31 ABC	News (N)	ABC Wld News	Inside Edition	Chronicle	Wife Swap		Supernanny		Primetime
	7	7	7 ASN	Twice in a Lifetime		Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Wife Swap		Supernanny		Law & Order
	11	11	11 CBC	Coronation St.	22 Minutes	Little Mosque	Sophie (HDTV)	CBC News: the fifth estate		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	2	2	2 CBC-F	Providence (SC)		Des squelettes	L'Épicerie	La Petite Séduction (N) (SC)		Bons baisers de France (SC)		Le Téléjournal
	32	32	32 CBS	News (N)	Evening News	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Big Brother 10 (Live)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		CSI: NY
	69	69	69 CFTM	TVA 18 heures	Sucré-salé	Marché	Vidéos	Michel Barrette, 20 ans déjà		Esprits criminels (HDTV)		TVA 22 heures
	6	6	6 CIHF	Entertainment	ET Canada	Crime Stories		Big Brother 10 (Live)		NCIS "Brothers in Arms"		News (N)
	9	9	9 CJCH	eTalk	Jeopardy! (N)	CSI: NY "Boo" (HDTV)		So You Think You Can Dance (N)				News (N)
primetime	10	10	10 ELTV	EastLink Mag.	Some Horse	Fuelin' Around	Build It (N)	Doc Talk	The Job Zone	EastLink Television		
	36	36	36 FOX	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	So You Think You Can Dance (N)				Fox First
	12	12	12 NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Hollywood	Extra (N)	The Baby Borrowers		The Baby Borrowers (N)		Law & Order
	29	29	29 NW	BBC World	Business	CBC News	Fortune	The Hour Diana Krall.		CBC News: The National		Nature-Things
	4	4	4 PBS-B	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Greater Boston	Ask This Old	Click & Clack's-Wrench Turns		Nova scienceNOW (N)		Secrets-Dead
	35	35	35 PBS-D	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Business Rpt.	BBC World	Click & Clack's-Wrench Turns		Nova scienceNOW (N)		Lady-Waiting
	68	68	68 TQS	Les Simpson	L'été est Flash	Wilder: profession détective (2000) Pam Grier. (SC)				Men in Trees: leçons		110 pour cent
news	23	96	96 BNN	Stars & Dogs	Business News		Market Call	Workopolis TV	GetConnected	Taking Stock		Market Call
	18	18	18 CNN	(5) The Situation Room		Lou Dobbs Tonight		CNN Election Center		CNN Presents: Black in America		
sports	54	54	54 GOLF	Highway 18		Top 10	Natalie Gulbis	Inside PGA	Golf Central	19th Hole	The Approach	Top 10
	52	52	52 RSE	Prime Time Sports		MLB Baseball Toronto Blue Jays at Baltimore Orioles. (HDTV) (Live)						Sportsnet Con.
	55	55	55 SCOR	Drive This	Game On	Race Night Harness racing highlights at the Mohawk Race Course.						Score Update
	45	45	45 SPD	Unique Whips		Pinks (HDTV)	Pass Time (N)	Am. Thunder	Am. Thunder	Pinks (HDTV)	Pinks Outtakes	Wrecked
	53	53	53 TSN	Off the Record	SportsCentre	Boxing	ATP Tennis U.S. Open Series -- Rogers Cup -- Day 3. From Toronto.					SportsCentre
family	43	43	43 FAM	Zoey 101	Life Derek	That's-Raven	Smart Guy	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School
	44	44	44 TOON	6teen	Johnny Test	George-Jungle	Merrie Melody	Loonatics	6teen	Total Drama	Futurama	Ghost World
	26	26	26 TREE	Fifi-Flowertots	Backyardigans	Wonder Pets	Nght Grdn	The Wiggles	Franklin	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Comfy Couch
	27	27	27 YTV	Drake & Josh	iCarly	Malcolm-Mid.	Prank Patrol	Fries That?	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Falcon Beach
cable variety	16	16	16 A&E	Cold Case Files		The First 48 (HDTV)		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter		Criss Angel
	70	70	70 APTN	First Talk	News	Smoke From His Fire		APTN National News: Contact		Northern Exposure		Wolf Lake
	50	50	50 BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live (N)			Hell Date	KeAnthony	Baldwin Hills	Hustle & Flow ★★★ (2005, Drama)		
	37	37	37 BRVO	Street Legal		Literature Alive	Arts & Minds	Wingfield	Camera	Mad Men A rift forms.		Entourage
	60	97	97 CLT	Help TV		The West Wing		Peter the Great				Traders
	25	25	25 CMT	Tara Diaries	Living, Dream	CMT30 "Craven 2008" (N)		Ult. Coyote Ugly Search		Reba	Hope & Faith	Home Improve.
	49	49	49 COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Laughs	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Lewis Black
	153	153	153 COURT	Crime Files	72 Hours	The Investigators		The District "Meltdown"		Spy Web: Hitler's Spies		Investigators
	38	38	38 DISC	How It's Made	How It's Made	Daily Planet (N)		Dirty Jobs		Sport Science (N)		Mayday
	34	48	48 HGTV	Holmes-Homes	Holmes-Homes	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Property Shop	Big City Broker	Property Virgin	Unsellable	Flipping Out
	46	46	46 HIST	Disaster-Cent.	Masterminds	NCIS "Kill An"		Re-Inventors	Re-Inventors	Mob Stories		NCIS
	17	17	17 MM	Punk'd	Born to Be	Gone Wild	Gone Wild	2008 MuchMusic Video Awards				Dance Crew
	19	19	19 MMM	MusicProfile	mmmtop10.com		Popaganda		Back In	Tip of Tongue	Tip of Tongue	Don't Forget
	201	201	201 M1	(6:15) The Number 23		Eastern Promises ★★★ (2007, Drama), Naomi Watts				Hot Fuzz ★★★ (2007, Comedy)		
	48	23	23 OLN	Don't Forget Your Passport		Departures		Cycling Tour de France Stage 17. From Embrun to L'Alpe-d'Huez, France.				
	51	51	51 PEACH	Friends	Seinfeld	Family Guy	Family Guy	From Dusk Till Dawn ★★ (1996, Action) Harvey Keitel.				Frasier
	206	206	206 PIX	(6:25) Hang 'Em High (1968, Western)			(8:20) Danger Zone (1996, Suspense)			Body Snatchers (1993, Science Fiction)		
	67	67	67 RDI	RDI en direct (SC)		RDI en direct	400 fois Qué	Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct
	39	39	39 SHOW	Trailer Park	Billable Hours	ReGenesis (HDTV)		Da Vinci's Inquest		Trailer Park	Rent-A-Goalie	Big Love
	40	40	40 SLICE	Skin Deep	Opening Soon	End of Leash	Til Debt-Part	X-Weighted "Jamila" (N)		Work Out		Inside Hollywd.
	47	47	47 SPACE	Relic Hunter		Stargate SG-1		Star Trek: Voyager "Q2"		Smallville "Fracture"		Supernatural
	14	14	14 SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		UFC: The Final Chapter		
	57	98	98 STAR	Making It	Star Treatment	Look-A-Like	Hollywood	TMZ (N)	eTalk	Celebrity Rehab With Dr. Drew		Tonight Show
	21	21	21 TLC	What Not to Wear		Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Must Love
	56	34	34 TROP	What Happen?	Vanity Insanity	TV Made, Do It	TV Made, Do It	ET Canada	Whatever	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
	20	20	20 TV5	Que.-champion	Journal de Fr2	Toute une histoire		Tatie Danielle (1990, Comédie) Tsilla Chelton.			En fanfare	Vivre à vélo
	28	28	28 V	Side Effects		Murder, She Wrote		Chambers	No Place Like	China's Leap of Faith (N)		Year in Tibet
	22	22	22 W	Shopping Bags	House	Will & Grace	Friends	Shopping Bags	Style by Jury	Smart Cookies	Stuck	Real Women
	251	251	251 WGN	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	America's Next Top Model		Pussycat Dolls: Girlicious		WGN News

critics' corner

Law & Order
Rubirosa (Alana De La Garza) is playing for the other team — and we don't mean in the Seinfeldian sexual-orientation sense. The legal aid lawyers are on strike, so she's pressed into service as court-appointed counsel for a man (Brad William Henke) accused of murdering one of the strikers. It'll get interesting when she and Cutter (Linus Roache) face each other in court. 11:01 PM on ASN NBC



Dirty Jobs
This episode about tanning is absolutely disgusting, even if you're not a member of PETA. But if you wear leather shoes or have a fondness for biker jackets, you know the cowhide had to come from somewhere. Here, viewers get to witness how leather is fashioned. Just be sure to have your finger hovering over the "previous channel" button on your remote control. 9 PM on DISC

Criss Angel Mindfreak
A couple of years ago, he walked on water without benefit of divine intervention. But that was small potatoes; he traversed a mere pool. In the fourth-season premiere of his series, illusionist Angel ups the ante by attempting to traverse Lake Mead, the largest man-made lake in the United States. Expect more wild stunts as the season continues. 11 PM on A&E

Celebrity death
Estelle Getty, star of the TV show The Golden Girls, died at her Los Angeles home yesterday morning, surrounded by family and caregivers. She was 84. TMZ.COM

Celebrity Buzz

Actor Getty confirms split from wife

SEPARATION Actor Balthazar Getty has confirmed reports he has split from his wife Rosetta, amid rumours he is having an affair with actress Sienna Miller, imdb.com reports.

The Brothers + Sisters star, 33, was photographed frolicking on a yacht off Italy's Amalfi coast with a topless Miller earlier this month, just days after he denied he was romantically involved with the Alfie star.

But Getty, who has four children with Rosetta, says the photographs have forced him to admit he and his wife are living apart.

In a statement he says, "The breakdown of a marriage is a very difficult and painful experience especially when children are involved.

"In light of the fact that many pictures have surfaced in print and on the Internet which has caused myself and my family great embarrassment, I felt it necessary to at least acknowledge publicly that, yes indeed my wife and I have separated and I will not be commenting any further."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Madonna nears breakdown?

HEALTH Madonna has sparked fears her turbulent personal life is taking its toll on her health, female-first.co.uk reports. The singer — who is rehearsing for her forthcoming world tour — has reportedly fired two dancers, while her tour manager is allegedly threatening to quit due to her "spectacular mood" swings.

Madonna has been rocked by claims her marriage to Guy Ritchie is in trouble and by allegations she is having an affair with baseball star Alex Rodriguez. Her brother Christopher released a tell-all book about her last week, which is said to have devastated her.

"Madonna is doing less than OK. She has been rehearsing for the tour and she is totally miserable," a source close to the singer revealed to Britain's The Sun newspaper.

As Madonna struggles to cope with the stress, she has been diagnosed as anaemic and the usually super-fit star has suffered a knee injury.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

'K-Fed to blame for Spears' fall'

BOUNCE BACK Britney Spears' problems can be traced back to her introduction to ex-husband Kevin Federline, Dr. Drew Pinsky explains in the new E! True Hollywood Story of her life, premiering Friday. "If you take Britney's life and put a moment in time where things started getting bad, it's the moment she got involved with Kevin Federline," Pinsky opines. Spears, 26, seems to have bounced back from her low. She is now recording a new album.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



celebrity brief

Spelling to ink mommy stories

BOOK What's life like for a new mom in 90210? Tori Spelling is ready to dish, People.com reports.

The actress, 35, is reportedly planning a new book – tentatively titled Mommywood, which will focus on her life as a Hollywood princess-turned-parent, according to publishers Simon & Schuster.

Spelling's debut effort this year, sTORI Telling, spent seven weeks on The New York Times best-seller list – and included accounts of her ill-starred first wedding, her father Aaron's death and the roller-coaster relationship with her mother, Candy.

The new book, already listed on Amazon.com and scheduled to hit the shelves in April 2009, is expected to focus on the birth and growing pains of 1-year-old son Liam and newborn Stella.

She is "doing great," Spelling – who's currently starring in Tori and Dean: Home Sweet Hollywood and preparing to reprise her role in the new 90210 – recently told People. And Liam is adjusting to being a big brother.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Campbell denies hotel damages

PEOPLE Supermodel Naomi Campbell refused to pay a $400 US bill at a Russian hotel after allegedly burning its silk sheets, imdb.com reports. Campbell stayed at the Ritz Carlton in Moscow with billionaire lover Vladislav Doronin last week.

But Campbell refused to pay a hotel fine after cleaning staff claimed they found holes burnt into the room's silk bedsheets.

A spokesman for Campbell denies she caused damage to hotel property, adding, "She didn't have candles on the sheets. She did not smoke in the hotel room. It is completely untrue."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



celebrity briefs

Longoria is Desperate for kids

TV Desperate Housewives star Eva Longoria Parker has a new project — getting pregnant, The Daily Mail reports. "I can't wait!" the star told People. Fans will see a different side to her in the show. Her character is about to be a mother-of-two.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



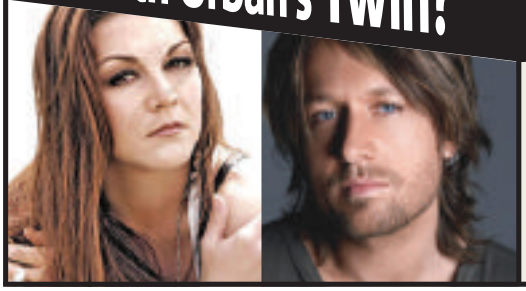
Rock tired of bimbos

RELATIONSHIPS Kid Rock wishes he could lose his "bimbo attractor," femalefirst.co.uk reports. Rock, who was previously married to Pamela Anderson, wants to avoid getting romantically involved with vacuous women. The singer started dating Anderson on and off in 2001, and the pair married in 2006. They divorced five months later.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Are YOU Gretchen Wilson's or Keith Urban's Twin?



If you think you look like Gretchen Wilson or Keith Urban, then submit your digital photo to us! If your photo receives the **most** votes*, you win:
• 2 VIP passes to Country Rocks 2008! Concert on the Commons featuring Keith Urban and Gretchen Wilson • 2 backstage passes to the concert • 1 night's accommodations at the Lord Nelson Hotel. Email your photo to **winwithmetro@metronews.ca** no later than 11:59pm, July 30.

OR You can Vote and Win! Starting August 1 the voting begins! Vote for your favourite look-alike online and you could win 2 tickets to the concert of the summer! Details at **metronews.ca**

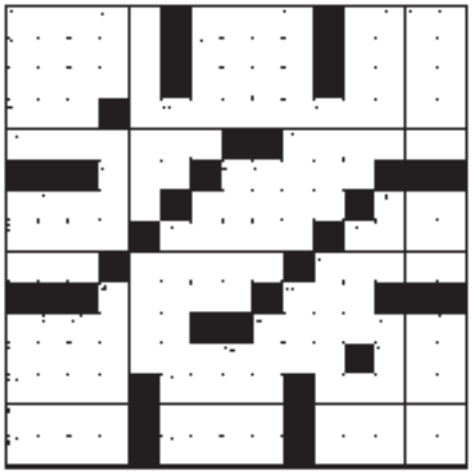
THE LORD NELSON HOTEL & SUITES
POWER PROMOTIONAL EVENTS INC
metronews.ca

*winners will be contacted by phone and announced in paper on August 13. Photo entries must include a digital photo sent as a JPEG attachment that is no larger than 5MB, full name, address and daytime phone number. Entries must include COUNTRY ROCKS CONEST in the subject line.

Marriage Billy Bob Thornton has vowed never to wed again, after five failed attempts at marriage. The 52-year-old actor has been dating Connie Angland — the mother of his three-year-old daughter Bella — for four years. "If we get married, then the press will start calling her 'No. 6,'" he said. IMDB.COM



Take Five



Crossword down

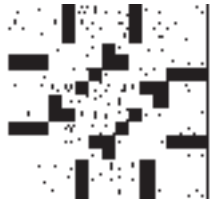
1 New shoot
2 View from Giza
3 Bylaws
4 Pub pint
5 Dessert wine
6 Be apprehensive
7 Fail to include
8 Mascara target
9 Go often
10 Jeweler's measures
11 Draw forth
12 Pry bar
13 Newspaper people
22 Do a takeoff
23 All-purpose vehicles
25 Become diffused
28 Slide down a snowy slope
29 Antarctic sea
30 Pertinent
31 Virus infection
32 MGM workplace
33 Steel- — boots
34 Barbecue plus
35 Monastery dweller
36 Fair grade
38 Summaries
39 Gill opening
41 Wide gap
42 Disconcerts
43 Horticultural art
44 Cast a vote
45 Vast assortment
46 Dial
47 Two cubed
48 Flashlight carrier
49 Waken
50 Listlessness
51 Consumed
53 Laugh-a-minute
54 This, in Barcelona
59 Hill builder

Crossword across

1 Vamoose!
6 Dog ancestor
10 Iodine source
14 Abdul or Zahn
15 Sharif of the movies
16 Maintain
17 Rubbed the wrong way
18 Work, as yeast
19 Wander
20 Ill temper
21 Natural disasters
24 Like a busybody
26 Says aloud
27 Before
28 Hudson Bay tribe
30 Wouldn't hurt — —
33 Saturday morning fare
34 Fast-food chain
37 Fall softly
38 Cook in embers
39 Bone-dry
40 Famous mummy
41 Estimate
42 Pond growth
43 Ring-shaped cake
44 Teahouse attire
45 Ancient (hyph.)
48 Stumped (3 wds.)
52 Jungles
55 — — shoestring
56 Bearskins, maybe
57 Daydream
58 Regular hangout
60 Turkish official
61 Memo
62 Come next
63 Hairy humanoid
64 Galaxy unit
65 Beer mug

Play more online at www.metronews.ca

previous day's answer



Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
A joker will keep you distracted. Anxiety has an impact on heroic actions. A friend has the simplest solution.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Be prepared for your point of view to change. Abandon a losing battle. Mockery won't help when someone is on a rampage.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Wheeling and dealing won't help you to win friends. Bad taste comes out in the open. Work undercover to figure out tricky problems.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Don't wear tacky clothes to take a stroll. Take your time to make a choice. A wrongdoer conceals his true feelings.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Someone's scattered thoughts force a decision. A fussy person will make matters worse. Complainer's failure leads to gossip.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
A telephone call causes a loss of objectivity. An ignored person is prepared for an interruption. Insomnia is a problem for a zesty friend.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
It's time to recover lost support. You must wait for a woman to change her mind. Be candid when you're with a grumbler.

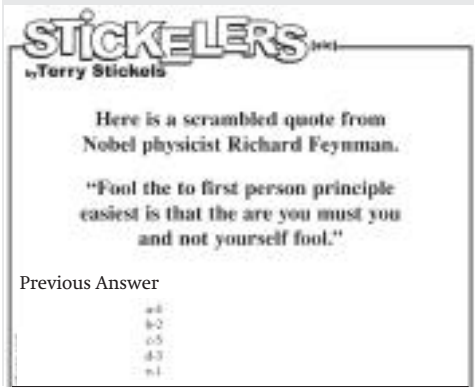
SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24- NOV 22
A crazy person asks for trouble. An alert friend's words will ring true. An eager woman sets out on a splendid journey.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23- DEC 21
Become a more reassuring person. A spiteful act is forgiven. Cooperate with a sneaky guy to get ahead.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Stand firm to lecture a cantankerous person. Don't risk going into frightening places. A late meeting leads to a truce.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
You can inspire agreement if you ask for wisdom. Curiosity is caused by meddling. A trivial incident causes revelations.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MAR 20
Ask friends to do some skillful scheduling. Get far away from a tainted situation. Convincing a man makes you define your feelings.



This day in history

JULY 23, 1903: Ford Motor Company sells its first car.
JULY 23, 1984: Vanessa Williams becomes the first Miss America to resign when she surrenders her crown after nude photos of her appeared in Penthouse magazine.
JULY 23, 1986: In London, Prince Andrew, Duke of York marries Sarah Ferguson at Westminster Abbey.
JULY 23, 1995: Comet Hale-Bopp is discovered and is visibly seen with a naked eye nearly a year later.

Sudoku

INSTRUCTIONS:
The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

previous day's answer

7	6	1	4	8	5	3	2	9
2	4	5	7	9	3	1	6	8
9	8	3	2	6	1	4	7	5
4	3	6	8	1	2	9	5	7
5	9	8	6	4	7	2	1	3
1	2	7	3	5	9	6	8	4
6	1	9	5	7	4	8	3	2
3	7	4	1	2	8	5	9	6
8	5	2	9	3	6	7	4	1

SOLVE TIME IN MINUTES:
Under 13 Genius
13-17 Scholar
17-21 Smart
21-25 Not bad
25+ Keep practicing

	8	9		5	7	3		
	5				4			2
			6	3				
		1				9	8	
			5		9			
	7	4				6		
				4	8			
7			3				5	
		6	2	9		1	3	

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE BUZZ.
Read Metro's Celebrity Buzz daily to get the scoop on Hollywood's latest gossip.
metronews.ca
metro Do it daily.

Halifax weather

Afternoon	Tonight	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Cloudy. 23°	Showers. 17°	Showers. 24°/ 19°	Rain. 24°/ 18°	Variable. 25°/ 18°
	70%	70%	70%	

The Weather Network theweathernetwork.com

Temperature
Normals
High: 22.6°
Low: 13.8°

Records
High: 28.9°/1970
Low: 10°/1974

Sunrise: 5:51 a.m.
Sunset: 8:49 p.m.
Moonset: 11:33 a.m.
Moonrise: 11:05 p.m.

©The Weather Network 2008

The Weather Network theweathernetwork.com
NOW OFFERING TRAFFIC ON YOUR MOBILE!
Download TrafficEye Mobile™ at theweathernetwork.com/mobile



Get more than you'd expect in a Value Package™.

Visit a dealer, aliant.net or call 1-866-425-4268

here. for you.™ aliant.net

Aliant

*Certain conditions apply, limited time only and subject to change without notice. Offer available to residential customers subscribing to new services. Aliant products are available only where technology and availability permit. Long distance plan includes 5 cents a minute calling across Canada/US and covers direct dialed residential voice activated calls only. A one time installation fee may apply. The price of this Aliant Value Package is for the first 3 months. Regular recurring rates will be $112 after 3rd month and $117 after 12th month (subject to change). 30 days advance notice is required to terminate select services. For more details visit www.aliant.net to see our Terms and Conditions. ™ Aliant Value Packages and here. for you. are trademarks of Bell Aliant Regional Communications, L.P.